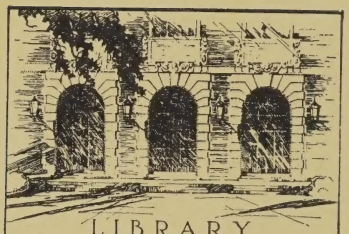
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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 73 *March, 1950*

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THE
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(ORGANIZED IN 1897)
For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

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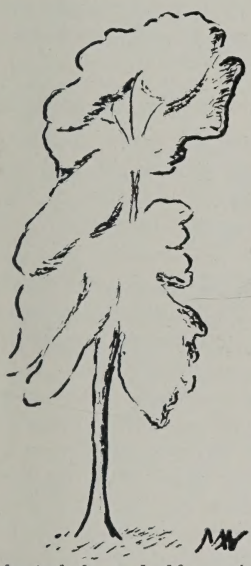
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE, CHICAGO 5, ILL.

Number 73 *March, 1950*

Red-Eyed Vireos in Jackson Park

By MARGARET MORSE NICE

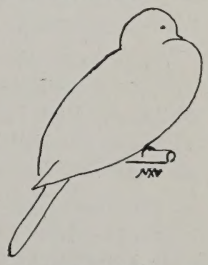
ONE PLEASANT summer afternoon I sat on a bench on the Wooded Island in Jackson park, Chicago, prepared to sketch my favorite catalpa, while I listened to the singing of an unmated brown thrasher and a red-eyed vireo. A bronzed grackle alighted in the nearby pin oak; a minute later there was a squawk and grackle was driven to the ground with red-eye practically on his back. Red-eye sat and sang in the oak, then dashed for another grackle that innocently perched there; the grackle fled. Red-eye went to a linden but was promptly driven out by the thrasher. Red-eye then chased off a third grackle, but the fourth had to be hit twice before it understood.



After seeing several more chases of grackles and an English sparrow, I noticed two red-eyes in the great bur oak 90 feet to the west; twice in quick succession one alighted in a particular spot some 20 feet above the ground. Study of this place with the binoculars from different positions revealed the nest, admirably protected above and below by oak leaves.

Greatly delighted with my discovery, I watched under the oak for an hour. Periods on the nest lasted from half a minute to 10 minutes; periods off the same. Sometimes the male accompanied his mate back to the nest. He sang most of the time as well as chasing grackles 16 times in 80 minutes.

A male and female cowbird walked about on the grass. I wondered what hosts they could find besides these vireos, cardinals, and the one pair of wood pewees.



The next morning, June 19, 1949, I arrived early — 6:10 central standard time. Such lovely sights and sounds — the magnificent catalpas in bloom, the snowy mock-orange, the gay red and orange flowers of the nine-barks. Four mourning doves were cooing and a wood pewee was singing, while little rabbits browsed unafraid.

The female red-eye was incubating in earnest, her longest session on

the eggs lasting 30 minutes, her shortest three, while periods off the nest lasted seven, seven, and one minute. Her mate was little in evidence and hardly sang at all during the hour, but he and wood pewee had a fight in the air. Once when the pair had just returned to the nest, another red-eye started singing confidently in a black locust 160 feet to the north. "Bur Oak" uttered two phrases very loudly, paused, and gave two more. Then he dashed for the intruder; there was a sudden silence and my bird returned home. He had driven off grackles at 100 feet from his nest, thus defending a territory of two-thirds of an acre from other species, in contrast to 1.8 acres from his own species.

On the 20th I could not go to the park. The next day the parents were feeding young. He brought food twice from 10 to 11 a.m., she once; she brooded for more than 40 minutes. Once a starling alighted within 18 inches of the nest and the male drove him off.

From 6:30 to 7:30 the next morning the father sang only a few phrases.



He fed once while his mate fed five times, brooding after each meal for one to 20 minutes. A squirrel traveled along one of the large branches of the oak. Two female cowbirds hunted about with a male.

I went to the east of the lagoon to try to find the vireo I called "Eastland" that every day crossed the water and sang for a while in the Japanese garden, always singing at a much more rapid rate than did "Bur Oak"; 57 times a minute in contrast to 35. I found "Eastland" but no sign of a mate. Farther south, however, there was another red-eye, singing only in snatches; soon I saw another and following them to a hackberry discovered they were building a nest! The female worked busily with a weaving motion, sometimes for two minutes at a time, sometimes for only a few seconds. She usually brought tiny shreds, gathered from a willow 20 yards distant. Her mate accompanied her on 15 of her 16 trips during the hour I watched, but brought no material; he regularly sang a phrase as they arrived. On the one occasion when she had come alone, he flew into a tree singing 35 times a minute as if calling her; he stopped short and they left together.

They had two visitors. A male English sparrow yapped in their hackberry, then came near the nest as if interested in purloining some of the material; when the pair arrived, the male chased him off in a hurry. Next a female cowbird chattered and approached; the pair drove her off furiously. The nest, 10 feet from the ground, might have been started that morning.

The next morning I made the round of the park, first visiting the nest in the hackberry. It was fairly well formed, but no owners appeared in the hour I watched. The park was full of young birds — robins, starlings, grackles, and a few thrashers — all enjoying the black mulberries. A pair of yellow-billed cuckoos gave their curious calls.

I found a fourth male red-eye near the statue of Columbia; he sang steadily for 48 of 60 minutes at 35 to 40 times a minute, but I believe he had no mate. At length I reached the bur oak and sat down to watch. Time passed and I began to fear the nest had come to grief, for it was 58 minutes before there was any sign of the parents. Then mother arrived with an insect, fed, looked about, and settled down to brood. During the next hour she fed three times, the father not at all; she brooded for nine minutes, a half minute, and 13 minutes. He sang for seven or eight minutes in the oak, some 10 feet above the nest.

Again I missed a day, this time through visiting Lincoln park to see what birds were nesting there. On the 25th I again made the rounds but found nothing but disappointment. The hackberry nest was unchanged. The red-eye by the statue was gone. I watched the bur oak nest for two hours and concluded that a squirrel must have found it. The only red-eye I heard in the whole park was "Eastland" who sang 53 times a minute in the Japanese garden.

The next day even "Eastland" was silent, and my only comfort was in the discovery of a baby downy woodpecker in the park, preening himself and calling for his father. On July 1, however, I found both "Eastland" and "Bur Oak" to judge from their rate of singing, 54 and 32 phrases a minute, respectively. "Bur Oak" had moved some 250 feet to the south and west, but I could see no sign of his mate. During the next two days I noted him singing in his territory.

From July 10 through August we visited the Wooded island 14 times — usually near noon or in the afternoon — and we heard red-eyed vireos only three times; a bird near the Japanese garden sang 40, 36, and 34 times a minute July 25, while on July 31 and August 8 we recorded only intermittent phrases. On August 20 four well-grown young wood pewees were being fed by their parents. By the end of the month when the berries on the island were making a brave show — the scarlet of the highbush cranberry, crimson of the haws, dusty pink of the burning bush, and delicate rose of the nannyberry — four families of cardinals were still caring for large young. But we never found a cowbird baby.

A great surprise awaited me September 1. As I was struggling to identify a troop of migrating warblers, a red-eyed vireo with a tail two-thirds grown fluttered its wings and was fed by its parents! This happened some 400 feet to the north of "Bur Oak's" second territory, but the next day the three birds were back home, the baby calling *whang* and following a parent to a dogwood bush whose berries were attracting catbirds, thrashers, and migrating thrushes. During the next two days I found a red-eye eating dogwood berries; on Sept. 6 a few nasal *whangs* were my last record for the season, except for a few migrants in the last third of the month.

Nearly 10 weeks had elapsed since the robbing of the nest in the bur oak and my discovery of the family. I consulted with Mrs. Louise de Kiriline Lawrence of Rutherglen, Ontario, who is making a careful study of this species. Curiously enough, one of her pairs lost their nest on the same day as the "Bur Oaks"; their second nest was robbed July 14.

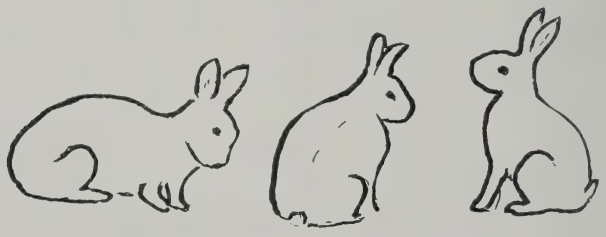
"On that day the female began a new nesting which was brought to a happy conclusion August 13 when two young left the nest," she wrote. "I saw them fed for the last time September 1."

Apparently the "Bur Oaks" also had made three attempts with success at last.

The rate of singing of the red-eyed vireo interested me. Roger Tory Peterson (*A Field Guide to the Birds,* 1947, Houghton) says this bird sings 40 phrases a minute, but my experience differs. The median rate of the Jackson Park birds when singing steadily between June 18 and July 1 at various hours of the morning (but none earlier than 6:10) was as follows: "Bur Oak" 33 (15 minutes counted); "Eastland" 53 (25 minutes); "Columbia Statue" 37 (10 minutes). The median rates for two birds in Lincoln park on June mornings were 40 (11 minutes) and 57 (seven minutes).

In southeastern Wisconsin July 6 to 8 three birds in the morning sang as follows: 54 (four minutes), two at the rate of 64 a minute. Ten other birds sang in the afternoon: 54 (five minutes), 52 (five minutes), 75 (two minutes), 60, 36, 36, and four at the rate of 60 phrases a minute. In the Wichita mountains in Oklahoma in the early morning of June 4, 1929, one red-eye sang from 70 to 85 times a minute, dropping to 57 to 63 later in the day. In Pelham, Mass., I noticed that August and September singing seemed to be only about half as rapid as earlier in the season, around 30 times a minute in contrast to 60.

The rate of singing seems to vary somewhat with time of year and time of day, and perhaps with weather conditions and stage of the nesting cycle. More important than these factors seems to be the individuality of the bird, since normal rates of steady singing during June and July may range from 33 to more than 60 phrases a minute.



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"It Ought to Be in The Bulletin"

Right! So WRITE! I edit the *Bulletin,* but YOU must write it. Put your idea on paper the way you think it should appear, mail to me, and I will make every effort to get it into the next issue. My lapses into authorship will be few. My job is to judge and prepare your copy for the printer, selecting the best and printing as many contributions as possible. It is your *Bulletin.* —J.B.

Smoky Mountain Singers

By Erma Deane Pilz

This is an account of a bird in the hand and two in the bush, as near a bird count as this unmathematical mind can approach. These were part and parcel of a few rich days in midsummer, at our farm at the foot of the Black mountains, the highest in western North Carolina, and somewhat north of the national park. "Out of this world, and 150 years back in the woods," should be included with the general directions.

With our farmhouse occupied by a tenant, and our work of tearing down a weathered old tenant house that stood propped up on one elbow some acres away, it was exigent that we live in a tent pitched near the woods, where a sweet, cold spring gushed up in the hollow of great encircling roots of hard maple. The "Ol' Blacks," as the range is commonly called, are named from the eternal darkness of the spruce trees that crowd the peaks. The mountains ooze the goodness of a heavy rainfall through the springs of the valleys. Many of the springs rise at the base of a giant tree, like our maple, and have come to be called by the name of the tree that cradles the water vein in its gnarled old roots. Our farm numbers many of these: the Beech Tree spring, the Maple spring, the Chestnut spring, for example, and each has a characteristic flow and temperature.

A pair of bullfrogs had chosen our site at the Maple spring before we had, and numerous lizards and countless butterflies and insects. The laurel thicket nearby housed a pair of the most energetic, yet quiet, catbirds I have ever seen. They welcomed the break of day, and sang again at sunset, but during the day darted quickly back in the bushes, working as hard at their job as we were occupied with ours. It is this pair of birds that we think of as two in the bush. They were as quiet as the Quaker folk in the next valley, and as busy, but never to be encountered in the laurels.

The brown thrasher was also there, and his performance in the evening was a showy one. Sometimes he sang from the alder brush of "the branch," an arm of a rushing mountain stream that gathered the waters of our springs before it rushed over the rocks to the fine trout creek that borders our land, and sometimes he flew to the tops of the great tulip trees, or black walnut trees, before he gave his performance; a veritable chest-thumping tenor, strutting from his stage and singing for his public. From off in the distance and in the eternal twilight of the deep woods, came the hauntingly lovely song of the wood thrush. I wondered that the mountain folk, whose entertainment, whose stories, whose ballads seem always to be marked with a pronounced predilection for the sad ending, had not made the sweet-sad fluting of the thrush their theme song, but no one appeared even to mark it as a strong minor theme in the bird chorus.

At daybreak there was always, after a few tentative calls, a great rush of song that arched over the valley, and filled every part of the air with insistent music — then a lull, as if perhaps the great chorus had missed a cue and come on too soon. Then, just about the time the biscuits were browning over the outdoor fire, and the bacon and eggs beginning to sput-

ter, and the heavy fragrance of coffee had blotted out the delicate perfume of the albizzia bloom, the birds started in again, with less fervor, but a greater degree of steady sound.

There were so many birds that individual songs lost their identity. Over near the farmhouse the robins sang just as they do in our city backyard. The phoebe, in a countryside veined with streams, perversely chose the rounded glass top of the electric meterbox by the farmhouse door as her nesting site. We thought her feverish anxiety and flight at every opening of the kitchen door would prevent her from rearing her family, but the young birds were well feathered and about ready to leave the nest when we last saw them. Next time, I hope, the flighty phoebe will return to the rafters of the great barn that borders the creek, where she can rear her young in greater peace.

The flycatcher, probably the olive-sided, frequently screamed out during the day from the top of a dead tree. I asked some of the hill people what kind of a bird it was. "Just a little ol' bird," was the answer, but bro-o-ther, what a "little ol' noise" that "little ol' bird" could make!

At one time or another, the cabin, with the hand-rived shingle roof which we were taking down, had housed at least one member of each of the 18 families who lived back up the mountain and, as we worked, there was usually one of its old residents standing quietly at hand to pay his last respects to his one-time home. Some gave us a hand with the work to be done. Others volunteered information about construction, but it was the children who showed us where the bluebirds had nested under the porch and where the cardinals had always come. The very last denizens of the weary old house had been a huge rat, who had collected everything from heaps of dried wild grapes to shot-gun shells and bird feathers of every color and size; and a "house-snake" — the identification will have to stand for all we ever saw of him was his head protruding between the boards; and an untold number of paper wasp colonies, whose larvae became both fish bait and bird food as we destroyed the nests.

The blackberries had ripened while we worked on the old house, and since the usual fecund abundance of wild fruits had been curtailed with early growth and late frosts, the neighbors were apprehensive that I let the season pass without getting some of the fruit put by for winter use. So on one of the precious few days of sunshine I toiled up the mountain with a huge pail to be filled with berries, with Joeline and Marshall Silver, the young couple living in an old locust-log cabin on the next farm, as my fellow pickers. Joeline has the happiest, most musical laugh I have ever heard. It speaks of a full heart and contagious enjoyment. A sudden ripple of that sound set me to looking at her discovery. It was the nest of the song sparrow built in the briars where she picked, and the three greenish eggs with brown freckles were indeed something to be seen.

"How about that? Food at the door, summat," she remarked. "We'll let it be — thar's enough for the both of us otherwhere."

We turned our feet away. A good thing, too, for we were being followed by a brown bull calf, a spotted yearling heifer, a huge white draft horse, and a bright rust dog wherever we walked. I love a parade!

Spring Warbler Migration

The graph on pages 8 and 9 was prepared by Roberts Mann, superintendent of conservation of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, from a spring warbler migration study published in the March, 1946, issue (No. 57) of the *Audubon Bulletin*. The following supplementary information is offered to aid interpretation of the records by those who do not have a copy of the complete study.

Approximately two-thirds of the observations shown were made by Harry R. Smith in the immediate vicinity of his home in south Evanston. The remainder were made within 30 miles of Chicago. Mr. Smith points out in explanation of the table from which the graph was prepared that all species were treated as migrants passing through the study area, because the number of summer resident species actually nesting in the particular areas where they were recorded would be negligible. Although the maximum number of a few species reached a peak of only one or two days' duration in some years, the consolidated figures for the entire 10 year record show that the period of maximum abundance extended from three to 11 days. A total of 3,973 birds was recorded, but nine of the rarer species are not included because the number in each case was too small to establish a maximum period.

The chart we are publishing is the third of a related series of three on which Mr. Mann has spent a tremendous amount of exacting work. The Society is pleased to acknowledge his kindness in permitting its use.

When we reached the top of the mountain, the towhees set up a racket at the fringe of the woods. The loud che-wink set the bob-whites to calling over the length of the farm. From every cove and thicket they called. Joeline, with her discerning eyes, pointed out a flash of vivid color in the tree at the very bottom of the mountain. "Hit's no fruit — hit's a bird," she said. Sure enough, she had spotted a scarlet tanager in the apple tree.

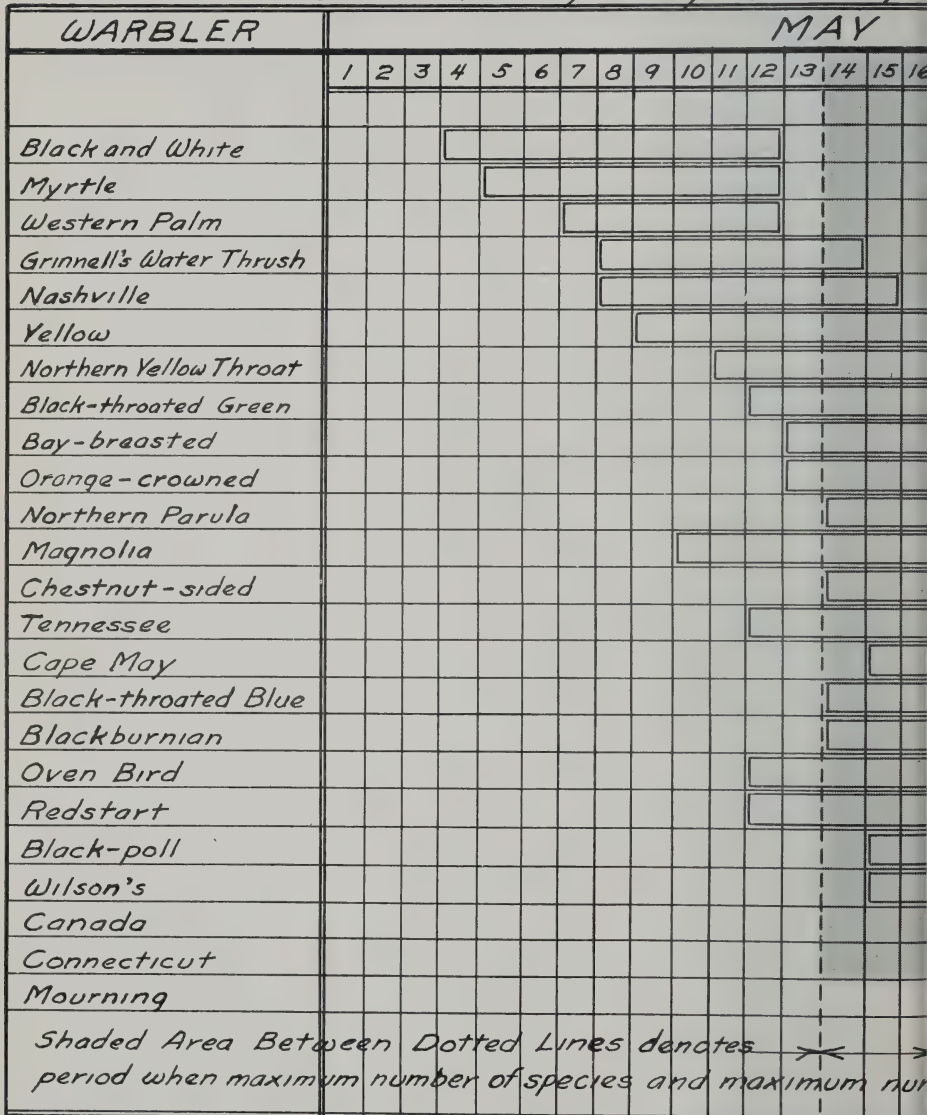
Then she told me about a conservative mountain woman, who, seeing a scarlet tanager in the treetop outside her door, had a sudden impulse to "brashness," and told her husband she "druther" have a dress the color of that bird than anything else in life. The husband took his money, which is hard come by in mountains, and walked eight miles to the nearest town. He bought some scarlet wool, with a little black for trimming, and then walked back home with the wish come true, and no small delight within his soul. "But she never made it up, and she never wore the dress arter wanting it," regretfully Joeline concluded.

When we had filled our pails with berries we slipped and strode downhill to the tent to rest awhile before we began the thankless task of canning fruit away from the comforts of a cabinet kitchen and electric stove. While we gathered fallen wood for a hot fire, we watched a goldfinch come down for a splashing in the shallows of "the branch." His less colorful mate waited to be asked to join him. She threw herself into the water with an

(*Continued on page ten*)

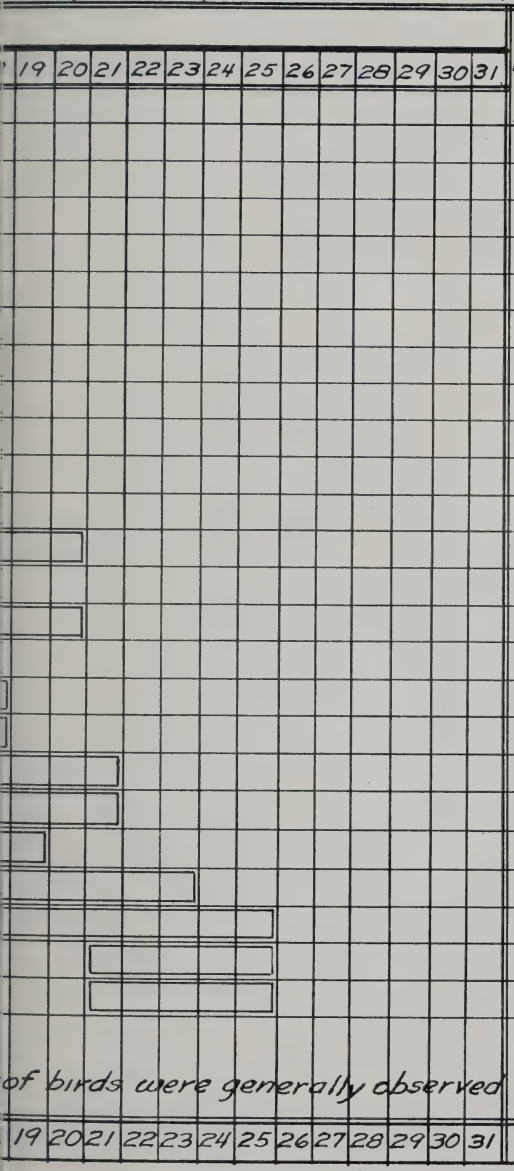
SPRING

Graph of Periods of Maximum Abundance of
Observations recorded by Harry R. Smith, E



'ARBLERS

lers in the Chicago Region as determined by
ston, Illinois; from 1936 to 1945, inclusive.



Number Observed and Recorded	Earliest Date First Seen	Latest Date Last Seen
166	4-24	5-30
557	4- 5	5-23
587	4-28	5-27
116	4-28	5-26
112	4-30	5-27
73	5- 4	5-24
204	4-30	5-30
109	5- 1	5-24
78	5- 2	5-26
15	5- 2	5-21
21	5- 9	5-24
474	4-29	6- 3
182	5- 8	5-27
15	5- 6	5-23
70	5- 7	5-27
16	5-12	5-27
138	5- 6	5-27
125	5- 2	6- 8
616	4-21	6- 7
30	5- 7	5-23
122	5-12	6- 6
83	5- 9	6- 3
11	5- 7	5-29
17	5-19	6- 5

Drawn by Roberts Mann
Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Ill.

(*Continued from page seven*)

energy that made a Caspar Milquetoast of her mate's toe-dipping technique, and we laughed as we watched the yellow bird and the green one in the glinting mica sand.

A sudden shower changed our plans about the fire, and I went on a tour of inspection down by the roadside of the farm where earlier this year I had set some of the 2,000 white pines furnished by the state. The trees were flourishing, had added inches in spite of the fact that they had been put in the ground late, after growth had already started. My eye took in the disappearance of a darkish blue bird. The large beak and dark wings with light bars told me it was the blue grosbeak rather than the indigo bunting I had first thought to see. There are greater numbers of both kinds to be found each year, but the brighter bunting prefers the telephone lines for a perch and the grosbeak hides in the bushes by a low-lying stream if it can.

The setting sun came out to make a brilliant rainbow in our valley. The great arc lay over our farm, and ended right in a golden cone of hay. Robbie, Joeline's teen-aged sister, came swinging down on us with a hay-fork over her shoulder. She insisted she was going to look for that pot of gold. We tried telling her that the hay itself was the gold. Robbie is quite a girl, part Amazon and part leprechaun. But for a combination of shyness with deviltry, I believe Clar'nce couldn't be matched. Clar'nce, another neighbor, at the ripe old age of nine, has slanted brown eyes dancing with amusement, and deep dimples to betray the mouth clamped down tight to keep the mischief unsaid. Clar'nce is the boy who had a bird in the hand. He took me up to show me the trumpet-vine in his grandmother's yard where the magic occurred. It was a ruby-throated hummingbird he had held for a moment — "the fightin'est thing," he told me. He saw it at the throat of the great orange trumpets, reached out, and there it was, in his hand!

On his way up the mountain to show me where it happened he called at his aunt's home and had her hand me down the lard bucket hanging on the porch. The wrens had nested in it; were still in it as I peered into the shiny tin pail, and Clar'nce's aunt assured me that the "young'uns" were much "purtier" with feathers than they had been without. "Law," she said, thinking in retrospect of the ugly naked things. "They was a sight! But they got a right smart of feathers now."

Clar'nce's grandmother verified his story about his holding the bird for an enchanted moment, but she hadn't let him have it long because those "least ones, (the mountain term for the smallest of a kind) had a sort of silver on their wings that you could see in the sunshine, and if that silver-dust rubbed off, the pore little ol' thing couldn't fly no more."

There you have it, my bird count; the two in the bush, the many, many in between — including the old owl that hooted every night, the red-winged blackbirds, the crows, the yellow-billed cuckoo, the vireos, and the mountain-top juncos that I haven't found a place for in this chronicle — and the exquisite jewel-bird with the sort of silver on its wings that mustn't rub off; the bird in the hand, which for a little barefoot mountain boy was certainly worth the two in the bush, and all the others.

What Is Your Membership Status?

In response to the last billing for membership dues it was gratifying to note that several active members of the Society remitted $5 and changed their classifications to contributing members. The next bills will be sent out shortly after this issue of the *Bulletin* is mailed and additional changes in membership status will help us meet the steadily increasing cost of operation. If you are an active member and wish to make such a change, merely change the figures in your bill from $2 to $5 and make your remittance accordingly.

All members are urged to return the blank form enclosed with their bill, listing the name and address of one or more prospective members. Better yet, get a new member and enclose the remittance with your own.

Christmas Census — 1949

THE 1949 CHRISTMAS census may well be remembered as the one of the snowy owl. This infrequent visitor from the far north was recorded in four reports, including two individuals in the report by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Campbell. A snowy owl first appeared on Northerly island in Meigs airport early in November and was seen more or less regularly there and at the lake front at the foot of Randolph st., Chicago, throughout November, December, and January. Another spent some time in Lincoln park and others were reported from northern and western suburbs and along the lake shore in northern Indiana. We hope these beautiful birds find their way safely back to their arctic habitat where they can rid themselves of the sooty shading they so quickly acquired here. We should thank them for their industrious assault on our rats.

Other high points in the census included an arctic three-toed woodpecker, glaucous and Iceland gulls, duck hawks on two reports, brown thrasher, Carolina wrens, a saw-whet owl, evening and pine grosbeaks, and a flock of about 50 mourning doves.

The census again was too nearly confined to the Chicago area. We should be happy to receive reports from members throughout the state. Plan to take a census next year and send it in by mid-January. This year's reports follow:

Chicago, Cook County; 15 mile diameter circle centering at Touhy and Lincoln aves., including lake front from Belmont harbor north to Tower rd., Graceland, Rosehill, Irving Park, and Memorial Park cemeteries, Chicago river forest preserves from Foster av. north to Tower rd., Des Plaines river forest preserves from Belmont ave. north to Dempster st.; deciduous river woods, 45%, lake front and harbors, 22%, feeding stations 7% cemeteries 7%, city parks 6%, open fields 6%, clay and gravel pits 4%, golf courses 2%, drainage canal 1%; Dec. 28; 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; cloudy early, clear by noon; temperature 24° to 42°; wind SW, 10-15 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Eighteen observers in five parties and at one

feeder. Total hours 47, 2 by car, 43 on foot, 2 at feeder; total miles 57, 19 by car, 38 on foot. Mallard, 80; black duck, 3; lesser scaup, 26; Amer. golden-eye, 943; buffle-head, 1; old-squaw, 345; hooded merganser, 1; Amer. merganser, 139; red-breasted merganser, 531; Cooper's hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 2; red-shouldered hawk, 3; duck hawk, 1 (large falcon shape, heavy mustache marks observed at close range — R.N.L.); sparrow hawk, 8; ring-necked pheasant, 71; herring gull, 2,491; ring-billed gull, 12; Bonaparte's gull, 72; snowy owl, 1; long-eared owl, 1; hairy woodpecker, 9; downy woodpecker, 29; blue jay, 6; crow, 145; black-capped chickadee, 97; tufted titmouse, 5; white-breasted nuthatch, 4; red-breasted nuthatch, 1; brown creeper, 14; Carolina wren, 2; brown thrasher, 1; robin, 3; golden-crowned kinglet, 6; starling, 606; English sparrow, 634; cardinal, 45; purple finch, 18; goldfinch, 4; slate-colored junco, 168; tree sparrow, 100; white-throated sparrow, 2; swamp sparrow, 1; song sparrow, 9; total, 43 species, 6,641 individuals. The snowy owl, brown thrasher, Carolina wrens, swamp and white-throated sparrows were seen in Lincoln park throughout December by various observers. (Seen in count area Dec. 23, arctic three-toed woodpecker, 1, observed at close range with 7X50 binocular, yellow crown patch, ladder sides, and black back noted — J. J. C., J. F. H., Howard Dean; Dec. 24, snow bunting, 7). — Mrs. Amy Baldwin, Bill Baasel, Mrs. J. H. Buchanan, Mrs. Reba Campbell, Jerome J. Carroll, Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Joseph F. Healy, Mr. and Mrs. John Helmer, Mrs. Bertha Huxford, Richard N. Lamermayer, Harold Lenz, Norman Lerch, Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Mannette, Janet McGovern, Mrs. Paul A. Stephenson, Dick Zusi. (Members, Chicago Ornithological society, Evanston Bird club.)

Rockford, Winnebago county; in Ho-No-Negah Forest preserve and Page Conservation park; Jan. 2; 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.; heavy fog and mist with light rain; temperature 42° to 46°; all creeks and Rock river open; light south breeze; 4 miles on foot; 6 observers, mostly together. Bob-white, 6; rock dove, 25; barred owl, 1; saw-whet owl, 1; kingfisher, 1 (heard); red-bellied woodpecker, 1; red-headed woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 5; blue jay, 11; crow, 7; black-capped chickadee, 19; tufted titmouse, 1; white-breasted nuthatch, 3; brown creeper, 3; golden-crowned kinglet, 3; starling, 75; English sparrow, 31; cardinal, 17; slate colored junco, 43; tree sparrow, 36; total, 21 species, 291 individuals. — Don Prentice, Paul Boynton, Harold E. Bennett, Lee Johnson, David Seal, Leland Ellis (North Central Illinois Ornithological society).

Joliet, Will county; Piltcher Park Arboretum; Jan. 1; 9 a.m. to 12:30; 3 miles on foot, 10 by auto; then to Channahon, Will county; along tow-path of I. & M. canal from Channahon to Morris and where the Des Plaines and Kankakee rivers merge to form the Illinois river; cloudy, drizzle; wind SE; all observations made from car; 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., 20 miles by auto. Mallard, 5; canvas-back, 1; lesser scaup, 20; Amer. golden-eye, 45; hooded merganser, 1; Amer. merganser, 1; red-tailed hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 2; Amer. rough-legged hawk, 4; marsh hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 2; capped chickadee, 12; tufted titmouse, 10; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; hairy woodpecker, 3; downy woodpecker, 12; blue jay, 8; crow, 25; black-

capped chickadee, 12; tufted titmouse, 10; white breasted nuthatch, 1; golden-crowned kinglet, 1; migrant shrike, 2; starling, 50; English sparrow, 10; red-wing, 1; cardinal, 15; redpoll, 4; slate-colored junco, 100; tree sparrow, 100; song sparrow, 3; total, 32 species, 445 individuals. — Karl E. Bartel, J. O. Young.

Chicago, Cook county; Montrose and Belmont harbors; Dec. 26; 7 a.m.; cloudy; wind SE, 15 m.p.h. Mallard, 145; Amer. golden-eye, 185; herring gull, 60; ring-billed gull, 45; total, 4 species, 435 individuals. —G. B. Schenong.

Blue Island, Cook county; vicinity of Oak Hill banding station and fields south and east; Dec. 21 to Jan. 2 (listing largest number seen in any one day); ground mostly bare; temperature ranging from 15° to 50°. Sparrow hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 6; killdeer, 1; herring gull, 200+; ring-billed gull, 20; flicker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 2; blue jay, 3; crow, 10; black-capped chickadee, 2; tufted titmouse, 1; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; robin, 1; brown thrasher 1 (seen by Reuss); starling, 300+; English sparrow, 50; cardinal, 6; slate-colored junco, 20; tree sparrow, 20; total, 20 species; 648 individuals. — Karl E. Bartel.

Waukegan, Lake county; Lake Michigan harbor, woods and fields west and north of Waukegan, and open water at Public Service plant; Jan. 2; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 34 miles (30 in car, 4 on foot); fog was so bad at times could only see about 10 feet; temperature 45°; wind SE and S, 20 m.p.h. Mallard, 3; lesser scaup, 4; hooded merganser, 2; red-tailed hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 4; ring-necked pheasant, 3; herring gull, 20; snowy owl, 1; crow, 5; northern shrike, 1; starling, 11; English sparrow, 4; purple finch, 8; pine siskin, 8; goldfinch, 1; slate-colored junco, 1; tree sparrow, 10; total, 17 species, 96 individuals. — Miss Leona Draheim, Mrs. Amy Baldwin, Carlyle Morris, Charles T. Clark, Miss Millicent Stebbins, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Campbell, Theodore Nork, Mrs. Paul Stephenson, Karl E. Bartel, J. O. Young, Miss Bonny Young, Dr. Kovacsh (13 fools for going out in such a fog, all agreed. Your editor, wife, and sister Jane found 10 Lapland longspurs in this same fog on Northerly island — not much else).

Waukegan, Lake county; Bowen Country club ravines, Greenwood st. beach, Public Service cooling pond, inner and outer harbors, Roosevelt park, upland swamp area, wooded estates on Sheridan rd.; lake, harbors and Public Service pond 58%, deciduous woods 25%, fields 10%, swamp 7%; Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; scattered clouds; temperature 33° to 36°; wind NE 5 m.p.h.; ground partly covered with snow; lake and harbors open; five observers together at lake front, separate in woods; total miles 30 (25 by car, 5 on foot). Pied-billed grebe, 2; mallard, 8 (some of which are permanent at pond); gadwall, 2; baldpate, 1; redhead, 3; canvas-back, 2; greater scaup, 4; lesser scaup, 140; Amer. golden-eye, 62; hooded merganser, 1; merganser, 425 (flying too distant to be specifically identified); hawk, 2 (buteos too distant); sparrow hawk, 3; herring gull, 2,625 (2,000 est.); ring-billed gull, 7; Bonaparte's gull, 40; screech owl, 1; downy woodpecker, 4; crow, 25; black-capped chickadee, 6; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; shrike, 1 (probably northern, judging by large size and over-all light color);

starling, 66; English sparrow, 85; pine siskin, 9; slate-colored junco, 22; tree sparrow, 87; total, 26 species; about 3,636 individuals. — Mrs. Paul Stephenson, Mrs. R. L. Mannette, Mrs. Reba Campbell, Norman Lerch, Richard Zusi (Evanston Bird club).

Glen Ellyn, DuPage county; groves of conifers, hardwoods, crab apple, fields and brushwoods in vicinity of Glen Ellyn and Morton Arboretum. Dec. 28; 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; wind 5 to 7 m.p.h.; temperature 30° to 41°. Ring-necked pheasant, 26; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 3; red-headed woodpecker, 1; horned lark, 2; blue jay, 2; crow, 18; black-capped chickadee, 4; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; red-breasted nuthatch, 2; cedar waxwing, 16; starling, 5; English sparrow (hundreds); cardinal, 5; evening grosbeak, 1; purple finch, 50; slate-colored junco, 21; tree sparrow, 1; white-throated sparrow, 1 (injured wing); total, 19 species, 177 individuals (not counting English sparrows). — Martha Stofer, Evie Duncan, Mildred Davis, Irma Choyce (Benjamin Gault Bird club).

Mrs. Frank W. Homan, a member of the Benjamin Gault Bird club, and five other persons with her saw a flock of mourning doves estimated at 50 at Butterfield rd. and S. Park blvd., near the Arboretum, Jan. 1.

Lisle, DuPage county; 800 acres within Morton Arboretum; Dec. 26; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. cloudy, wind SE; temperature 35°; ground partly covered with snow; observers mostly together. Cooper's hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 7; herring gull, 3; long-eared owl, 18; downy woodpecker, 3; blue jay, 5; crow, 200; chickadee, 11; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; red-breasted nuthatch, 4; brown creeper, 2; robin, 7; golden-crowned kinglet, 4; cedar waxwing, 20; starling, 12; English sparrow, 4; cardinal, 5; evening grosbeak, 1; purple finch, 22; pine grosbeak, 1; pine siskin, 24; goldfinch, 2; slate-colored junco, 10; tree sparrow, 1; total, 25 species; 310 individuals. — 21 members and friends of Chicago Ornithological society, led by Karl E. Bartel.

Lisle, DuPage county; Morton Arboretum; Jan. 15 (Not in census period but submitted for comparison); 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; cloudy; temperature 40°; wind W. Red-tailed hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 3; ring-necked pheasant, 1; herring gull, 6; long-eared owl, 7; flicker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 2; blue jay, 2; crow, 25; black-capped chickadee, 6; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; red-breasted nuthatch, 1; brown creeper, 3; robin, 11; golden-crowned kinglet, 12; cedar waxwing, 34; starling, 10; English sparrow, 40; cardinal, 3; purple finch, 4; pine grosbeak, 1; pine siskin, 25; slate-colored junco, 10; total, 24 species, 212 individuals. — 12 members of C. O. S. again led by Karl E. Bartel.

Winamac, Ind.; Jasper-Pulaski State Game preserve and from and to Winamac; Dec. 28; 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; clear; wind S. 5 m.p.h.; temperature 35°; lake about half covered with ice; 20 miles by auto, 1 mile on foot. Pied-billed grebe, 1; Canada goose, 39; mallard, 10; black duck, 6; red-tailed hawk, 3; marsh hawk, 1; duck hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; downy woodpecker, 3; blue jay, 16; crow, 85; black-capped chickadee, 12; tufted titmouse, 4; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; golden-crowned kinglet, 1; cardinal, 8; slate-colored junco, 60; tree sparrow, 2; total, 18 species, 247 individuals. — Mr. & Mrs. John Bayless, Mrs. E. C. Gorrell.

Chicago, Cook county; lake front, Jackson park to Lincoln park; Dec. 25; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; rain, sleet, snow; temperature 35° to 45°; wind S. 15-20 m.p.h., visibility poor; 10 miles by car. Lesser scaup duck, 100+; Amer. golden-eye, 150+; old-squaw, 300+; Amer. merganser, 4; ring-necked pheasant, 15; glaucous gull, 1; Iceland gull, 1; herring gull, 2,000+; ring-billed gull, 500+; Bonaparte's gull, 35; rock dove, 50; snowy owl, 2; crow, 1; Carolina wren, 1; starling, 50; English sparrow, 50; cardinal, 6; slate-colored junco, 15; total, 18 species, 3,281+ individuals. — Mr. & Mrs. Albert L. Campbell.

Palos Park, Cook county; five bird-banding and feeding stations in Palos Park at residences of Dr. and Mrs. McQuarrie, Miss Alice Greenacre, Dr. and Mrs. Bressler, Mrs. G. Ward, and Mr. and Mrs. Lord; Dec. 26; 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; temperature 38°; light snow, almost rain. Red-bellied woodpecker (f), 1; hairy woodpecker, 5; downy woodpecker, 14; crow, 10; black-capped chickadee, 32; tufted titmouse, 8; white-breasted nuthatch, 6; brown creeper, 1; robin, 3; cardinal, 8; purple finch, 10; goldfinch, 2; slate-colored junco, 50; tree sparrow, 2; also a snowy owl, found near the Palwaukee airport, which was brought to Mrs. McQuarrie in a weakened condition, dying within a day; total, 15 species, 153 individuals. — Alfred H. Reuss.

Society Receives Bequest

The Society is grateful for a bequest in the will of one of its friends, Anna D. Holmquist, recently deceased. The will was properly drawn by a competent attorney and we will receive the funds as intended, but we recall a situation in which this was not the case. With the intention of befriending birdlife, a Chicago man included in his will a substantial bequest to a local institution for the purpose of establishing a bird sanctuary. When the will was probated it was found that there was no provision for maintaining the sanctuary or any alternative measures for use of the money. As a result, it is questionable if it can ever be used as the testator wished. It is therefore suggested that any friends or members of the Society considering a bequest to it may avoid a similar mistake by having their attorneys consult our officers.

Dr. C. W. G. Eifrig

It is with deep regret that the Society reports the death last Nov. 1 of its former president, Dr. Charles William Gustav Eifrig, in Orlando, Fla., at the age of 78 years. Dr. Eifrig was president for 14 years and since his retirement from that office in 1941 had been an honorary director of the Society. He was a minister of the Lutheran church and for 33 years was professor of science at Concordia Teachers college, River Forest, Ill. He was widely known as a naturalist and served two years as secretary of the Wilson Ornithological club.

Notes from a Bird-Bander

After the warblers leave in October, November through February are the slow months of bird-banding here at 2908 Edison st., Blue Island, Ill. However, this winter being so open and mild, several visitors have been trapped and banded.

On Nov. 20 a white-throated sparrow and a song sparrow were trapped. A downy woodpecker feeds daily at the suet hopper, but when the traps are set doesn't seem to come around. Tree sparrows are also around but just look at the traps. The starlings are too smart and the English sparrows are in and out of the traps all the time.

On Dec. 18 a brown thrasher was seen early in the morning. I rushed out and set up additional traps, but it did not come back to see what an array of food was set out. Dec. 28 a male flicker was trapped and banded. I was really surprised to catch it, because I had not seen it around.

Jan. 5 the temperature was down to 18 and I again saw the thrasher, this time about a block from my station. It appeared in good health and was enjoying the cold sitting high in a bush. Another song sparrow was trapped at noon, and trapping the thrasher was forgotten. Finally, Jan. 9, the thrasher ventured to 2908 Edison and I trapped it with a female cardinal in a one-cell trap nearby. What a record — a thrasher banded in January! It was found to be in good health, and on being released flew to a nearby bush, then across the road. I haven't seen it since. It was around this area 22 days.

A robin has been seen nearby, but as yet (Jan. 24) hasn't found the abundance of food waiting. Due to the fact that we have had little deep snow, few juncos and tree sparrows came in to feed. They prefer weed seeds in the fields.

—Alfred H. Reuss

Society Sponsors Tea

After the success of the get-acquainted tea held by the Society in January, 1949, the directors felt it worth while to have another one this year. The tea took place from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 29, in the Art Institute of Chicago's clubroom, and drew approximately twice the number of members and guests who attended the year before—120 persons.

Dr. R. M. Strong, president, gave a short address of welcome and introduced the directors present. He also made a plea for action against the cutting down of shrubs in Chicago's parks, and suggested that as many letters as possible be written to Gov. Henry F. Schricker of Indiana protesting the plan of building an industrial harbor at the mouth of Burns ditch, a stream that empties into Lake Michigan in Indiana's sand dunes country, near the Indiana Dunes State park. He asserted that the plan would ruin a large section of the unspoiled duneland so famous for its plants, birds, and other wildlife, and undoubtedly would contaminate lake water in the area. Dr. Strong reported the harbor is not necessary from an industrial standpoint.

Two motion pictures in color, "Birds in Winter" and "Birds of the Inland Waterways" were shown by Miss Harriet Smith, of the Chicago Natural History museum staff.

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of bird protection. Work of this kind is receiving increasing approval on the part of the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests. The economic welfare of our country is seen to be involved in the preservation of wild birdlife, and the situation is both an incentive and a challenge to the most thoughtful and far-reaching effort.

The Illinois Audubon Society finds itself in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life and of the natural scenery of which it forms a part. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and of wayside tangle set apart for preservation is speedily appraised by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, of lake and water course in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. For these reasons the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts relating to the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$25.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

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Number 74 *June, 1950*

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The Society invites the membership of all bird students and those desiring to support its activities

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Yellow Warbler Nesting Notes

By Lee G. Johnson

The male yellow warblers arrive from the south at their nesting sites in the Rockford area the last week in April, or more often, the first week in May, with the females following a few days later. In the last six years my sister and I have found many nests of these birds in this area, but it is only during the last two years that I have made any systematic study of them and taken notes. The observations in this paper are, therefore, confined principally to the years of 1948 and 1949. During that period I took notes on 15 pairs in their various activities, including nest building, incubation, and feeding of the young. Observations were made of at least 10 additional pairs that were obviously nesting, but their nests were not located.

Nesting of 10 pairs of the 15 studied were successful, or partially successful. Man was directly responsible for at least three of the five nest failures: one was upset by berry pickers; one disturbed by thoughtless people and deserted, and another was torn down by children. One was blown down by a storm and one disappeared completely, leaving no trace of how it was removed.

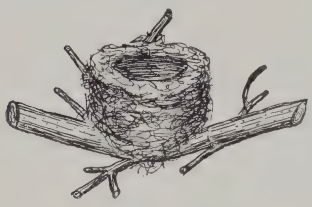
Upon arrival, the male yellow warbler goes immediately to his favorite area and selects his territory. He prefers a habitat with willows, alders, other young trees, weeds, and low underbrush near water, and usually a place away from the habitations of man.

Somewhere in the territory he selects is a tree taller than the surrounding vegetation. This tree becomes his singing perch, and his song increases in frequency and volume until the female arrives. The song continues until the nest is built and the eggs are hatched. After the hatching of the young, the male parent has less time to sing and instead of mounting on his perch to sing, he gives short snatches of song from the lower vegetation while he is searching for food. He sings again for a short time after the young have left the nest; then he quits entirely.

The selection of the nesting site takes place after the female arrives. The yellow warbler spends most of its time near the ground; therefore, it selects a site near the ground. I found the highest nest to be 20 feet, with the average about 12 feet. The nest is usually placed in a vertical fork of a tree branch, although occasionally it is placed in a horizontal fork or between two stems.

The nest is not started until there is enough foliage to conceal it. Most of its construction is done by the female, and she shows the greatest in-

terest in protecting it while it is being constructed. She uses fine material firmly attached to the twigs to make the structure sturdy. The exterior is composed of tightly woven strips of bark, fine grasses, tiny weed stems, and other plant fibers. It is lined with finer materials such as plant downs, feathers, and very fine plant fibers. When completed, the nest is a durable compact cup, retaining its shape well under adverse weather conditions. A few nests are poorly constructed, probably the work of the young, inexperienced females.



This is the average size nest. It has been rebuilt once to cover a cowbird egg. It is an unusual position on a horizontal box elder branch. (*Sketches by the author*)

Apparently there is a wide range in the dates that the first eggs are laid. My notes show the start of egg-laying from May 18th to June 18th. This variation is due, to some extent, to nest failure and a second start at egg-laying. There is also reason to believe that some pairs raise two broods in the same year, as I have seen indications of mating in the middle of June. It would, of course, be necessary to band the birds (which I do not do) to determine with any degree of accuracy which pairs were starting to nest for the first time. However, from the observations I have made, it seems reasonable to suppose that the start of egg-laying in the first nests varies over a period of a week or 10 days.

The eggs are whitish, spotted with shades of brown, with most spots concentrated at the large end. Under more normal conditions, four to six eggs are laid, but the nests I found contained four or less. This was due to the persistent parisitism of the cowbird upsetting the progress of the warbler's nesting cycle. It is a normal condition for the yellow warbler to be one of the hosts of the cowbird, but not to the extent found in the 15 nests I studied. All except two of these contained one or more cowbird eggs at some time during the nesting period, and one nest was parasitized five different times.

I have no figures available on this subject in relation to the yellow warbler, but studies of the song sparrow (which is by far the most common victim of the cowbird) generally show an average of less than 50 per cent of its nests to be parasitized, against 87 per cent for my nests.

The cowbird starts laying its eggs in the warbler's nest before its completion and often lays in it after its desertion by the young. Unlike most other birds that are hosts of the cowbird, the yellow warbler can distinguish its own eggs from the parasite's eggs. So when one or two of the latter appear in the nest, the warbler disposes of them by covering them with a new addition and lining on the nest. So industrious are they in covering the eggs that they rebuild the nest as many as six times if the cowbird is persistent. They even bury their own when a cowbird's egg appears among them. The ordinary nest is two inches high. A cowbird egg buried in it adds one-half inch to it. One nest I studied was 5¾ inches high, and it was obvious that it had been rebuilt at least five times.

A few cowbirds are raised by inexperienced pairs of warblers, but this is the exception. I was unable to watch all nests from the time the eggs were laid until the young had left, but I found only two instances where the female warbler sat on cowbird eggs. In one nest, the warbler sat on two of her own and two cowbird eggs. This nest was destroyed before the eggs were hatched. In the other nest, one cowbird was hatched and raised.



This is the nest that was rebuilt many times. It is $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. high. It is placed in the usual box elder fork.

The cowbird is not the only menace of the nesting warbler. Too often, one of the others is man. If he disturbs the nest while it is being built, it is likely to be deserted and a new nest built nearby. When the nest is finished and the eggs are laid, the nest is less likely to be deserted. Instead, a great fuss is raised and the birds dart at the intruder and all but attack him.

The efforts of both parents are rewarded when about two weeks after hatching, the young leave the nest. They stay in the nesting tree for about 24 hours and call for food, then remain in the nesting area for several weeks. They are very shy at this time.

In fact, the yellow warbler is so shy most of the time that fortunately few people are aware that it is near. They do not look in a mosquito-infested area that is grown up with so much underbrush that one finds it difficult to get through. If they did, they would be amazed at the number of warblers to be found. One area which covers one square mile contained an estimated 40 pairs, which is not surprising, in view of the close proximity of some of the nests.

When some doubt was expressed regarding my statement that two of the nests were only 15 feet apart, I found by measurement that the distance between the small box elder trees in which they were situated was 14 feet 7 inches, and the actual distance between the nests was 21 feet. The day the young left one nest, the first egg was laid in the other, so that nesting operations definitely were being carried on simultaneously.

This is a most unusual record for birds not nesting in colonies. As a general rule, the tolerance of nesting pairs of the same species is several times this distance.

I have learned many facts of this nature while watching the yellow warblers, even though my time was limited and my visits to the nests were of necessity rather irregular. It would be most interesting to see what could be accomplished in a study area similar to mine by four or five students who could arrange their time so that each nest could be visited at least once a day and each nesting pair observed for a full day.

402 Pennsylvania ave., Rockford

Winter Brings in Rare Birds

By Amy Baldwin

Winter, summer, spring and fall — each has its compensations in all nature and so we take advantage of good days and bad alike. Many times we find very good rewards for our efforts even though it rains, is foggy, or windy.

This year started out with our usual trip to Waukegan on Jan. 2. It was a very poor day. Most of the trip up was blanketed in fog and driving was bad, though not icy. A northern shrike was seen on the road into Waukegan and we had a good study of it before it flew out of sight. It is rather rare around this vicinity and some years we do not see one. We also saw a snowy owl.

It is unwise to plan on what one is going to see from one year to the next in the same place, though we have a tendency to do so. Weather, wind, and land changes have to be taken into consideration. For the last several years we have gone to Waukegan at this season and seen at least 10 or 12 different kinds of ducks. This year there had been much dredging east of the Northern Illinois Public Service company plant so, what with fog and this unexpected change in terrain, scarcely anything was seen there.

Then at the pier last year, we had the rare ivory gull, the glaucous, and many other gulls, but this year few were seen. It might have been the weather. This winter was especially good at Randolph st., Chicago, at the naval armory and the breakwater surrounding the yacht harbor there. We saw two Iceland gulls together, which was unusual, and a mature Kumlien's gull put in an appearance.

A week or so later a new rare record for us was the western gull, in association with the numerous herring gulls. Dark wings and a broad band of black on the tail and about an inch of white at the tip of tail made quite a striking study in comparison to the herring, glaucous, Kumlien's and Iceland gulls. We also had a few ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls. Thousands of gulls wintered in Chicago, going to the dumps west and south of the city for food to supplement the good supply of small fish that swarm the harbor waters when not frozen.

Jan. 7 was a nice, clear day, so Miss Leona Draheim and I met at Randolph st. and the harbor to work our way south to the Chicago Natural History museum for the Aubudon Screen Tour lecture. At the end of the breakwater just below the Shedd acquarium we spied an unusual duck and knew we were to add a new life list bird. It was in the company of a flock of mallards, black ducks, one pintail and a female scaup. It was a rare new duck to this region — the harlequin! The duck was not in full spring plumage, but was a male. The next thing was to tell everyone we could about it, hoping many would see it before it left us.

Then on Feb. 15, another poor day of fog, rain and wind, I felt I must go over to the Jackson park yacht harbor to see what I could there. To my surprise I found a pair of harlequin ducks, this time with a small flock of scaup ducks. These birds seemed to be a little more advanced in spring

plumage. The front view of the face of the male was quite striking. They seemed to skip over the water somthing like coots in making short changes in position. A scaup female seemed to take quite an interest in the male harlequin, driving off the female every time she came near her mate. Was there a scandal even there in this topsy-turvy world? There were several nice scaup males in the flock.

Another good find for us in Jackson park was a pair of Bohemian waxwings, first on the Wooded island and later on the promontory at LaRabida Jackson Park sanitarium. They fed on the privet berries. For years I had not seen any Bohemians; then saw one in the Lincoln park sanctuary last fall, and now these two in Jackson park. I had watched cedar waxwings for years hoping to see them pass-the-cherry back and forth. Then when I found the Bohemians at LaRabida I witnessed the sweetest love scene I ever saw among birds. They passed a little black privet fruit back and forth for some time, until a back-fire from an automobile on the highway frightened them. The fruit was dropped and the birds flew away.

Many long eared owls wintered at Morton arboretum, also a red phase screech owl, and great horned owls were seen early in the winter. But no one was able to find the dainty little saw-whet owl there, much to our disappointment. A year earlier he could almost always be found at the same end of a mixed spruce forest.

A female pine grosbeak was in the arboretum most of the winter in company with cedar waxwings, purple finches, pine siskins, red crossbills, and a few robins. A few evening grosbeaks were seen. The pine grosbeak lost its tail feathers early but they had grown out by early spring and it was a lovely bird. There was an abundant harvest of the Japanese crabapples and the birds certainly made good use of them.

The winter was generally cold and blustery except for brief spells. Killdeer came north about March 5 in great numbers, but the weather turned cold again and none were seen for some time.

Monday, March 27, was cloudy with high winds, but what a day for good birding reports! Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice was notified that a good migration was on, so she went to Wooded island in Jackson park and found many birds; the outstanding one of all was a hooded warbler! I went to Eggers woods and found a pair of wood ducks, a black and white warbler, a winter wren, two purple martins, cardinals singing and robins everywhere. I also found a saw-whet owl at last, two woodcock, a swamp sparrow, many juncos and field, tree, fox and song sparrows, a sapsucker, flicker, downy woodpecker, kingfisher, and red-winged blackbirds singing. There was a migration of marsh hawks and what seemed to be Cooper's or sharp-shinned hawks, but the wind was so strong that it was difficult to tell one from the other. From there I went to Lake Calumet where on the flats a snowy owl was still holding out against the wind. I found blue-winged teal, ring-necked ducks, ruddy ducks, American golden-eyes, one old-squaw, coots, shovellers, and a nicely plumaged horned grebe. There were scarcely any herring gulls, which seemed strange in view of the hundreds out there almost any winter day. I arrived home at 3 p.m. and at 4 a storm of rain and hail stones the size of peas pelted Chicago.

The gulls were back in numbers at Calumet when I visited there March 29. At Wolf lake we saw a very dark phased snowy owl, a common loon, redhead ducks, canvas-back, scaup, American golden-eyes, and two baldpates, besides large numbers of ducks so far out that we could not identfy them. At Jackson park outer harbor the harlequin was still there with greater and lesser scaup, golden-eyes, and red-breasted mergansers. Two hooded mergansers were in the lagoon east of Wooded island.

6335 S. Kimbark ave., Chicago 37



Birds in a British Summer

By Alfred C. Ames

Wheatear — goldcrest — blue tit — lapwing — pied wagtail — these are not least among the sights that Britain offers the tourist

From mid-July to early September, 1949, I was an enchanted first time visitor in Great Britain. Bird watching was a constant if minor pursuit throughout my travels in the island of England-Scotland-Wales — travels that took me as far north as Braemar on the Dee, as far south as the Sussex Downs, west to Oban and to Anglesey, and east to Canterbury. Throughout, an alertness to birds added greatly to the interest and satisfaction of an itinerary drawn up quite independently of birds.

My list of species, almost all encountered casually and incidentally, came to 50, nearly all new to an American observer. As is true of other aspects of British life, British birds offer constant novelty without overwhelming alien strangeness. Some few birds are the same as those at home — at least to the extent of binomials. It was good to see common terns in large numbers flying under the Firth of Forth bridge as the sun set and darkness gathered at Queensferry, to see my only British creeper along a lonely road west of Braemer, to see our barn swallows skimming over the lawn at Dryburgh Abbey (as lovely a spot as there is in Scotland). Home birds that are excitingly uncommon here are even more exciting against a foreign backdrop. I remember especially a great flock of turnstones flashing low over Conway bay, east of Beaumaris.

England's only wren, our winter wren, scolded me as I passed too near a vine-hung cliff on the Isle of Arran. I got a glimpse of her, we two the only living creatures in sight in that particular spot, just around the corner from Lochranza. Two names long known to me only in the pages of books materialized for me: the magpie and the wheatear. Several magpies flashed into view on the ridge of Costorphine hill, just above Edinburgh zoo. My first good look at a wheatear, at a distance of only a few feet, came at a psychological moment. I was plodding along, drenched and weary after an hour-long rain in shelterless, barren Kirkstone Pass in Westmoreland, when there it was, friendly and unmistakable, on a roadside stone fence. All the way down the new foot path from the pass to Brothers Water, wheatears were constantly appearing and disappearing.

Birds I saw again and again included the robin, the pied wagtail, the martin (smaller than ours, with a white rump), and the lapwings. The English robin, as domestic as ours and more winsome, hopped about under

tables on an outdoor terrace overlooking Derwent Water, and almost alighted on my shoulder one afternoon at Jordans, in the other end of the country in Buckinghamshire. The pied wagtail I first saw in the courtyard of Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland. It was almost everywhere after that, tame and confiding. The martins added life and movement as one looked down from bridges, whether at the fresh water of the Tweed or the salt water of Menai Strait. A family was being energetically reared as late as September, under eaves on the main street of Ditchling, Sussex. I can testify that lapwings are "widely distributed." The place they excited me most was near Penrith, when a large flock of these large, spectacular plovers flew erratically over the site of ancient Roman Brovacum, with the grand ruin of Brougham Castle just the other side.

Then there were the single encounters — times when I saw one bird once, and never again. Scrambling up wooded Dunmallet at the foot of Ullswater, I saw that charming kinglet, the goldcrest. On a low outbuilding roof west of Bangor, Wales, a nuthatch (Britain has but one species) was eating crumbs early one morning. The spotted flycatcher at work over a Cambridge college garden . . . a jewel-like little kingfisher on the Thames above London . . . a red grouse whirring off over a Perthshire hillside . . . a great spotted woodpecker within the earthworks surrounding the strange monolith at Mayburgh near Eamont Bridge — these were memorable creatures to encounter in memorable settings.

There were episodes too. The newspapers have shown us pictures of tits stealing cream from bottles; I caught a coal tit in the act, before breakfast, in Menai Bridge. . . Walking near Tal-y-Cafn, Wales, I came upon a thrush's anvil, with broken snail shells about as in Thorburn's painting of the song thrush. But it was in Edinburgh cemetery that I saw the bird. . . On Puffin island, deserted by the puffins, but occupied by hundreds of protesting gulls, one strange note struck my ear, and seconds later an oystercatcher flew past below the cliff's edge. . . Early mornings, when the tide was out there were oyster-catchers and common sandpipers and quantities of curlews on the mud flats around Church island near Menai Bridge. Once a heron (Britain has but one species) was close in, fishing. Someone on the mainland of Anglesey moved in too near, and the curlews scattered, crying piercingly.

I have not yet mentioned the great rakish gannets, flashing over the North Sea or the waterways of the Clyde — the little blue tits, brilliant and tiny, trickling through bushes — the long-tailed tit, unmistakable in flight — the black-backed gulls, everywhere on the Scottish coast — or such birds familiar in English literature as blackbirds, rooks, chaffinches. Was it a sky lark that flew overhead swiftly one evening at sunset on Blackford Hill, Edinburgh? It could have been. And what all the nondescript little creatures were that dived headlong into and over the hedgerows of England I do not even venture to guess.

It is no guess that even in mid-summer, in what Hudson called "the great silence that is August," an American in Britain can see birds he never saw before, birds that he will gladly remember always.

929 Brummel st., Evanston

Bird Watching

By Harry Smith

In his excellent book, *A Guide to Bird Watching*, Joseph Hickey says, "The art of bird watching has different meanings among different people." And referring to the "Field Card School of Ornithology which measures success in terms of rarity, the first migrant, and the big list," he says: "At its worst, it is a mad rush to the next oasis, with birds ticked off on the run, and a great reliance placed on both gasoline and brakes. . . . Bird watching is much more than this. It is the art of discovering how birds live."

Many amateur bird students will argue that they are not qualified by training for serious observation of birds or that they record them only as a hobby and that more thoughtful study would detract from the fun of building the big list with emphasis on the rarer species. These arguments are well answered by the study of the nesting yellow warblers by Lee Johnson in this issue of the *Bulletin.*

Lee is a 17 year old high school boy with no scientific training. He has, however, done a fine job of bird watching and is to be commended for his notes on it. Furthermore, we know he had all the fun and satisfaction from the results of his project that he had in recording more than 200 species last year.

As he mentioned in the last paragraph, it would be interesting to see what could be accomplished by the cooperative efforts of four or five observers, and we recommend such a project for the consideration of the Rockford club. If the study were confined to cowbird parasitism alone, it might well make a worth while contribution to the literature on the subject.

The Evanston Bird club has a similar opportunity for a cooperative study of the upland plover in the area where Mrs. Dorothy Helmer watched it and reported her observations in the March, 1949, issue of the *Bulletin.* In most of the densely populated centers of the nation bird students would go many miles to see this interesting bird, and yet it nests little more than a five-minute drive from any part of Evanston. However, at the rate new houses are being built in this area, the last nesting site of the plover will be gone in another year or two. It is, therefore, imperative that any additional nesting observations be made soon.

For downstate studies we could suggest the Bewick's wren, which we understand is extending its range northward. Northern Illinois readers of the *Bulletin* would be interested in reading of this little wren which is uncommon in their section of the state. Here is a project for the Champaign or Springfield clubs, and a more southerly nesting species could be selected for study by the East St. Louis club.

These suggestions, which are only a few of many others that occur to us, are not made as a plea to abandon the field check card, but that it be made a subordinate, rather than a major, interest in watching birds. Even the most serious cases of check list fever abate the first week in June, when

most of the migration is over, and it is a good time to start watching some one phase of behavior in a single species, or the nesting activities of a single pair.

Studies of such a nature will bring all the thrills of discovery, the satisfaction of accomplishment, and the joy of bird watching that comes with attaining a big list. No better proof of this could be offered than the notes on the red-eyed vireos by Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice in the last issue of the *Bulletin*. Although she is a distinguished ornithologist and has studied bird behavior for many years, it would be most apparent to the reader that she enjoyed her little study in Jackson Park, even if she had not written, "I was delighted with my discovery."

Incidentally, everyone who is at all interested in "how birds live" should read her scholarly life history of the song sparrow and Mr. Hickey's book on bird watching. Both of these stimulating works tell us how and what to look for, and are a challenge to add to our knowledge of birds.

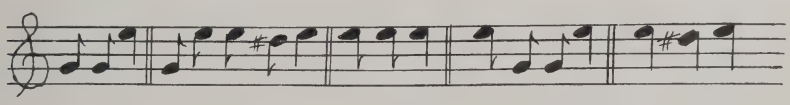
809 Michigan ave., Evanston

Song of the Yellow-Headed Blackbird

By F. J. Freeman

The song of the yellow-headed blackbird is described in the *Audubon Bird Guide* as starting with "a few harsh, distinct notes and deteriorating into a jumble of sounds which ends in a long, rasping squeal." But "that ain't the way I heard it!"

The first time I heard the song of this blackbird was at Baker Lake, Barrington, Ill. I heard the bird singing in the middle and far distance of the slough, but did not see it or know what it was. It did not sound like anything I had ever heard, and indeed for a moment I thought it was the musical squeaking of the windmill on the farther shore. The song had a pastoral piping quality wholly in keeping with the peaceful, sunlit scene before me. The following musical notations are the variations of the song as they sounded to me:



A week or so later I had the good fortune to see a yellow-head sing his song within 10 feet of me. It had all the raucous, asthmatic qualities attributed to it; but in the undertones — a peculiar double quality — I could detect the music of my mysterious singer. The distance had filtered out the harsh noises and left the pure music! Which does the female respond to, I wonder? Perhaps she is attracted from a distance by the music and dominated close at hand by the harshness. On the other hand the harsh noise and swelling of the feathers may serve to intimidate intruding males.

Since then I have often identified, without seeing, the distant yellow-head by listening for the windmill squeaking song — although "squeaking" hardly does justice to the rustic beauty of the melody.

Before I had actually seen the bird I imagined that its yellow head would be an instant give-away. But when I chanced to find it walking about in the green growth of a wet meadow with golden sunlight reflected everywhere, I found its yellow head quite inconspicuous. And when it flew across the sparkling water, its head might as well have been black for all the attention it drew. What did attract the eye, even at a distance, were the square white shoulder patches that flashed like semaphore signals.

Incidentally, the birds, which breed regularly at Baker Lake, have been banded by Charles Kossack of Barrington. One return was received from south of Mexico City.

Baker Lake lies on the eastern edge of Barrington and is bounded on the north by Hillsdale avenue and on the northwest by a religious camp ground. Both of these borders are accessible and good places for observation. From these points yellow-headed blackbirds often can be heard. Occasionally they visit the shore line here. By the exercise of ingenuity one can penetrate to the southwest corner of the slough by automobile and come out upon a hill overlooking the south end. After leaving the car and crossing the fence line, the panorama of the south end is spread before one, and with good luck you may find through binoculars, toward the inhospitable shore, a yellow-head perched in his territory singing.

320 N. Elm st., Itasca, Ill.

Screen Tours

The Illinois Audubon Society again will present its popular series of screen tours next winter. The tentative schedule, subject to approval by all cities on the screen tour circuit, but not likely to be changed, is as follows:

Monday night, Nov. 27 — "Wildlife Down East" by Carl Buchheister

Saturday afternoon, Jan. 13 — "Saguaroland" by Karl Maslowski

Saturday afternoon, Feb. 10 — "This Curious World in Nature" by William Ferguson

Sunday afternoon, March 18 — "In the Hills of Gold" by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.

Wednesday night, April 18 — "Canada West" by Bert Harwell

All lectures will be held in the Simpson theater of the Chicago Natural History Museum, as they were last winter. The museum has much more seating space than did the Chicago Academy of Sciences, where tours formerly were held, and visitors to the museum often are attracted to the lectures as well. As a result, attendance last winter was substantially higher than ever before. The Roger Tory Peterson lecture set a new high with an audience of more than 900 persons.

This winter, like last winter, the society has endeavored to satisfy two groups of persons — those who asked that all tours be given at night, because many active bird watchers wish to be free to spend their days in the field, and those who wanted all tours in the afternoons, because the museum is a difficult place to reach at night if one does not have an automobile. Dr. Strong found in a survey at the tea in January that opinion on the question was about evenly divided. Thus next winter we will have two week-night lectures, two on Saturday afternoons, and one on Sunday afternoon. The definite schedule is not made up by the Illinois society; it sends in its general preferences and the National Audubon society tries to follow them as closely as possible while making out the nation-wide schedule covering all cities that sponsor the screen tours.

The 1949-'50 series of lectures was distinctive in its variety of presentation . . . from poetry and philosophy to raw realism. Karl Maslowski's unusual color film, "Beneath Buckeye Skies," outlined present conservation problems. "Alluring Alaska," so poetically portraying the grandeur of Alaskan scenery and big game, was Father Link's contribution.

The futility of faulty conservation methods, too much stress on the preservation of one species with no regard for the balance of nature, was told simply and effectively by Tom and Arlene Hadley. Their "Happy Land" contained beautiful autumnal scenes of northern Michigan. In February, we enjoyed the exotic splendor of "Bird Magic in Mexico," so thrillingly told by Dr. George Miksch Sutton. For a truly unparalleled finale, Roger Tory Peterson dispelled many of the mysteries of "The Riddle of Migration." His subtle invitation to bird study stimulated several prospective new members to join the Illinois Audubon Society. Proof that this series of lectures was one of our finest was apparent from the large attendance.



Mrs. J. Benton Schaub

Mrs. J. Benton Schaub, 58, a member of the board of directors of the Illinois Audubon Society since June, 1944, died at her home, 1040 Isabella st., Wilmette, on April 15.

Mary Hall Schaub was widely known throughout Illinois for her many and diverse activities in religious, educational, fraternal, and ornithological circles. She was an artist of more than average ability and a teacher of art in the public schools in Skokie, Ill. In the field of nature Mrs. Schaub found one of her greatest joys in using colored slides prepared by Mr. Schaub. She shared her extensive knowledge of native wild flowers with garden clubs and other interested groups.

For many years she was a federal bird bander, a member of the Wilson Ornithological club, the Evanston Bird club, the Inland Bird Banding association, and was a past president of the William I. Lyon Bird Banding council.

Week-Ends in Indiana

By Esther A. Craigmile

House guests were few at Turkey Run Inn in late January. Service was good in the dining room and the food delicious. From our corner table at breakfast we could see a popular lunch counter for the birds abundantly suplied with sunflower seed. According to custom, only one bird fed at a time. A dozen cardinals awaited their turns, all others strictly observing the peck right. Chickadees, tufted titmice, and white-breasted nuthatches were in the food line.The nuthatch snatched a seed and flew to a nearby tree to fasten it in the bark. It hardly took time to eat before it was back for another grab. Juncos were conspicuous as they flaunted white tail feathers in departing. English sparrows and a fat gray squirrel fed on the ground. Red-bellied woodpeckers were numerous in the beech woods.

We stumbled upon another feeding counter some distance from the inn. A pair of red-breasted nuthatches were sampling that. As I turned my glasses on them a mockingbird appeared. As it flew it displayed white patches on wings and tail. A Carolina wren's note was heard in the shrubs. He was in full song the next morning in the rain. A third feeding shelf was discovered with seven goldfinches in winter plumage all facing the same direction. Again a squirrel and English sparrows fed on the ground. Downy and hairy woodpeckers came for daily rations. Titmice were active. Occasional crows were seen and heard. A bob-white whistled near the parking area.

The ravine was a picture with sycamore ghost trunks against a background of dark hemlock. The great beech trees seemed lovelier than ever with animal pictures decorating the trunks. The leafy beech carpet was a challenge to those interested in hooked rug design. How I wanted to peep under the leafy carpet to find the snow trillium and hepaticas so gorgeous in April. Christmas ferns, bright green mosses, and gray green lichens on tree trunks were beautiful. Mrs. Flora (W. D.) Richardson is a delightful guide among the mosses in the spring.

I listened for owls in the night, but heard none. Yet I found telltale junco feathers on the doorstep in the morning which indicated a fatal struggle. Fields along the highway were well stocked with beef cattle, hogs, sheep and chickens. I hoped to see a turkey vulture but scanned the sky in vain. They return from the south later in the season, I learned. The superintendent at McCormick's Creek State park showed us their nesting site one spring in April. Curiosity seekers visit such nesting grounds at their own risk.

While returning to LaGrange Park we saw from the car a few flocks of juncos and tree sparrows, two sparrow hawks, a marsh hawk, meadowlark, and three mourning doves on wires. A brilliant bluebird crossed the road, just escaping the windshield. Along Lake Michigan herring and ring-billed gulls were abundant. Numerous flocks of ducks were too far away for identification in the worst ice storm of the winter.

Again in March I spent a week-end in Indiana, going to Randolph county, east of Muncie. Active building projects near my home had kept early spring migrants from reporting in LaGrange Park. By the time we reached U.S. route 30 flocks of robins, red-winged blackbirds, bronzed grackles, a few cowbirds, meadowlarks, juncos and tree sparrows were much in evidence. It is to be regretted that in motoring six hours not a single hawk was observed. In the Herbert Davis forestry farm (owned by Purdue university) near Farmland, Ind., the first turkey vulture was seen. Later in the day two flocks of a dozen each soared above the forest. They had recently arrived.

One large swamp was dotted with a half dozen Canada geese, many mallards, and pintails. Canvas-backs were identified earlier in the day. Prairie horned larks and a loggerhead shrike were in a corn field. In an adjoining quarry were seen a handsome horned grebe and a coot. Wood duck nest in the swampy area of the state woods. One female was seen on the White river.

Downy, hairy, red-headed and red-bellied woodpeckers and flickers were listed. The phoebe and kingfisher were both seen along the creek in the woods. Flocks of chickadees, a nuthatch, titmice, and brown creepers were in small shrubs along the river. Toward evening three great blue herons flapped over where three barn owls patrolled fields in which mice were abundant. This was a daily occurrence.

While searching for great blue heron nests here one May day we discovered two young barred owls of different sizes. When small boys became too intimate with the nestlings a parent suddenly appeared with a warning whoop. Great horned owls frequent the heavy timber where their large pellets are found. Screech owls are common. Red-tailed, marsh and sparrow hawks were observed. A half dozen species of hawks winter in this area. Through a class of a dozen enthusiastic bird students an effort is being made for their protection.

Two purple martin scouts in the same region were observed inspecting summer apartments March 26. Their dates of arrival are a week or 10 days in advance of records in Chicago.

It is fun to greet the migrants on their journey north.

315 N. LaGrange rd., LaGrange Park

Evening Grosbeaks

The winter just past saw concentrations of evening grosbeaks as well as snowy owls in Illinois. They were reported from several localities late in the winter. Paul Downing banded 41 grosbeaks in Lake Forest between the first week of March, when they were first seen in the vicinity, and the third week of April, and reported a small flock was still there at that time. Previously he had banded flocks at the same location in 1942 and 1945; none was seen in intervening years. The banding trap was situated in a residential district of Lake Forest, near houses, not a place where one would expect to find such large numbers of grosbeaks, Downing said.

Status of the Mourning Dove

Members of the Society all over Illinois are asked to pay particular attention this year to mourning doves, and make notes on numbers seen, location, and any pertinent data on nesting that they may be able to find.

The purpose is to gather as extensive and accurate information as possible on mourning dove population to use when the question of putting the bird on the protected list in the state comes up again before the legislature. The question came up in the last session, but no action was taken.

States all around Illinois have no open season on the mourning dove. Most Illinois hunting groups want the dove left on the game list. There are a few who believe the season should be later in the fall than at present, so that all young will have left the nest, and there are others who are in favor of a closed season for several years, but they are in the minority.

Although the Illinois Audubon Society rallied to the support of the mourning dove, it had no figures to show the bird is decreasing in the state, if it is. Neither did any other conservation organizations or agencies, and a bill to protect the dove failed to pass.

The State Natural History Survey made a start on a mourning dove census, but has not had the manpower to make a full study. It seems to be up to the bird watchers. Any persons having figures for any previous years might be able to make some valuable comparisons. At any rate, any helpful information will be welcome. The chairman of the Society's mourning dove committee is Paul E. Downing, 835 Waukegan rd., Highland Park, Ill. Keep your records all summer and until the doves have left in the fall, then send your summaries to Mr. Downing.

* * *

The mourning dove is one of the farmers' best friends, from the standpoint of weed seed destruction, says Dr. O. A. Stevens, agricultural experiment station botanist at Fargo, N.D.

"One pound per month is a fair estimate for the weed seed consumption of a single dove, according to specimens collected near Fargo," the botanist reports. "Six out of 12 birds collected shortly before sundown had in their crops a total of 2.1 ounces of seeds, or a little more than 1/3 ounce per bird. Allowing only two such meals per day, the average per bird for 30 days would be 1¼ pounds."

Yellow pigeon grass seems to be the favorite food, one bird's crop containing 2,073 of these seeds and few of other kinds. Five birds collected last Sept. 11 had eaten an average of 752 seeds of yellow pigeon grass.

Purpose of the study was to find out to what extent doves feed on the seed of leafy spurge. All of the birds were obtained within a few rods of a large field of this weed, but not a single seed was found in the crops examined.

A captive dove fed on seeds of leafy spurge and other weeds. The spurge seeds were eaten readily, but were completely ground up in the well-developed gizzard of the bird. Even the small, hard, smooth seeds of pigweed were completely ground. Similar studies by an Iowa experiment station give the same sort of conclusions. Weed seeds are destroyed when eaten by the birds and not passed in the droppings.

Field Trip to Allerton Park

By JANET H. ZIMMERMANN

THE FIELD TRIP to Robert Allerton park, near Monticello, Ill., on April 22 and 23 was a great success. Sixty-four members of the Illinois Audubon Society were Saturday evening dinner guests of the University of Illinois, which owns the park. Of these 32 were from Monticello, Champaign, Urbana and Rantoul, one each signed from Mattoon and Arthur, and 30 were from the Chicago area. Dr. Ralph E. Yeatter, a member of the I.A.S. board of directors and game specialist for the State Natural History Survey, had charge of all arrangements. Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, professor of zoology at the U. of I., led the field trip Sunday morning, in which about 80 persons participated.

Few of us who were to spend the night there had any idea what to expect of Robert Allerton park. I had a notion that the residence would be a large, roomy farmhouse. We began to suspect that we had underestimated the "farm" as we drove along an avenue of tall arborvitae, from which formal gardens open on either side. One, called the "Garden of the Blue Dogs," is lined with large Chinese dogs of blue enamel. The "farmhouse" is a red brick mansion in a beautiful setting of gardens, lawns, and rolling meadows. It faces an artificial lake, and the winding, wooded Sangamon river. The drawing room, and smaller informal library and sitting room at either end of it, overlook the lake and river. Most of us were given rooms in the servants' wing, but Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Lewy "hit the jack-pot" with one of the master bedrooms. They held open house for visitors who called on them to admire the luxurious furnishings, the marble fireplace, the great bow-window with the same view as the drawing room directly below, and the private marble bath.

The field trip Sunday morning started at nine o'clock, under Dr. Kendeigh's leadership. Most of the group had been up since five o'clock, wandering along the paths bordering the river or roaming through the estate's 11 formal gardens. Most of the gardens are decorated with sculpture, including a figure of Adam by Rodin, and the "Death of the Last Centaur" by Antoine Bourdell. The "Lost Garden" in an undeveloped area several miles from the mansion appealed to the imagination.

A total bird list of about 35 species was not impressive, but all the Chicagoans were delighted with a summer tanager which moved quietly about the tops of the still bare trees and permitted everyone to examine him at length. A barn owl also was very accomodating, and let us peer into his heart-shaped monkey face. Even the weather relented. Saturday was fair and warm. On Sunday it was hot, and the rain held off until the last hiker had come indoors for dinner at one o'clock.

The dinner Saturday evening was held in the library, a great room about 100 feet long paralleling the drawing room on the opposite side of the house. Dr. Yeatter presided. He introduced Don Duncan, president of the Champaign County Audubon club, who gave a brief account of the club. It has about 60 members in good standing, and a mailing list of

several hundred. The club presents the Audubon Screen Tours each year, free of charge, but helps to finance them with voluntary contributions from the audience.

Dr. Kendeigh, the second speaker, outlined the history of the park. It was given to the university in 1947 by Robert Allerton, Chicago capitalist and art patron, who now makes his home in Hawaii. Its 6,000 acres include 1,400 acres of forest, some of it virgin timber. Graduate students of the university's zoology department are making breeding bird censuses of three different ecological areas on the estate — an "upland forest" on the banks of the Sangamon, a "flood plain forest," and a "forest-edge" area.

This last was cultivated farmland until 1924, when it was abandoned and permitted to return to nature. Shrubs and trees have invaded it from the virgin forest on its borders. In the forest-edge area, students have found that the cedar waxwing population has declined in each year under examination. The Bell's vireo, on the other hand, has increased from none in 1946 to one pair in 1947 and 1948, and to six pairs in 1949. Black-billed cuckoos numbered 16 pairs in 1946 and only three pairs in 1949. To determine *why* birds fluctuate in numbers is the long-range objective of the studies.

Dr. R. M. Strong, president of the I.A.S., concluded the evening's program with a forceful talk on the problems of the Society. It was founded in 1897, primarily to fight the use of wild bird feathers in millinery. With that objective accomplished, it has concerned itself with conservation in general.

"We have very great problems to solve if our nation is to survive," he declared. "A constant fight must be waged to save our parks, forests, and wildlife, for they are under greater danger of destruction than ever before in the nation's history."

To inform the public of these dangers, to overcome prejudice, and, above all, to overcome indifference and apathy, is the work of the Society today, said Dr. Strong. But if it is to extend its influence, *it must become truly a state-wide*, and less a Chicago regional, organization. One way is to develop divisional groups in different parts of the state. And more members must participate in the Society's work. It has had only four presidents since 1897 — Ruthven Deane, the founder; Orpeus M. Schantz, Dr. C. W. G. Eifrig, and Dr. Strong, who has held the office for nine years. Charles O. Decker was treasurer for 20 years. When he resigned a year ago, Harry R. Smith accepted the office temporarily in addition to his duties as executive secretary and membership committee chairman. He resigned the treasurer position this winter and the Society at the moment has no treasurer. Too much work is given to too few people.

1211 Michigan ave., Evanston

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of bird protection. Work of this kind is receiving increasing approval on the part of the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests. The economic welfare of our country is seen to be involved in the preservation of wild birdlife, and the situation is both an incentive and a challenge to the most thoughtful and far-reaching effort.

The Illinois Audubon Society finds itself in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life and of the natural scenery of which it forms a part. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and of wayside tangle set apart for preservation is speedily appraised by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, of lake and water course in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. For these reasons the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts relating to the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$25.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

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(ORGANIZED IN 1897)

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CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

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Between the Snows

By JOHN BAYLESS

"ORRIBLE, 'ORRIBLE," croaked a voice which we finally traced to the Central American squirrel cuckoo, a chestnut and gray bird, crow-sized, with an amazing repertoire of parrot-like calls which he kept up incessantly. My father-in-law, Bernard Douglas of Shelbyville, Ind., insists this call was the cuckoo's studied opinion on conditions in Mexico generally.

We were on the north bank of the Rio Corona, a lazy river 180 miles south of Matamoras and Brownsville, Tex. Lofty moss-shrouded cypress lined the river on both sides, a startling contrast to the bleak cactus, mesquite, sand and rock wasteland through which most of the journey south had taken us. The thermometer we carried with us recorded about 90 degrees after an hour in the shade of the cypress; we had been afraid to look at it most of the time while driving.

It was mid-afternoon, March 21, and bird life was virtually nil except for the cuckoo and the "up-cup-a-coo" of the red-billed pigeons, which we had identified earlier in Santa Ana wildlife refuge west of Harlingen, Tex. We decided to continue on to Victoria, spend the night, and return early in the morning. We found passable lodging, clean, but below tourist standards in Texas motels, in a tourist camp just north of Victoria. The food at the restaurant we had been advised to patronize was strictly below par and our advisor had scared us out of trying any of the native dishes, which probably were much tastier than what we had. We enjoyed a stroll on the square and a bit of haggling with souvenir peddlers, trying to match their speed at converting pesos into their dollars and cents equivalent.

But we were looking for birds, so a jaunt north of town yielded a Mexican goshawk, really a small buteo, which posed beautifully for us on a yucca, and four yellow-headed parrots, the common cage variety, which flew over in formation in the light of the setting sun streaming over a lovely mountain range west of the city.

Next morning we returned to the Rio Corona and found it a maddening medley of bird calls, almost none of which we recognized. The squirrel cuckoo had added a few notes overnight and was practicing them avidly. Smaller birds flitted about, stopping each time behind a spray of Spanish moss. A tiny jewel of a kingfisher whizzed down the river, looking as blue as an indigo bunting, but we were assured later that it had to be the Texas kingfisher, which is green and which we thought we knew well from earlier views. Then came one of the birds we were looking for. The ringed kingfisher. It is larger than our eastern belted kingfisher and red below

the throat band. He was a beauty and looked immense so soon after our view of the Texas.

I got here my first good study of the green jay, which I had pursued all over Santa Ana refuge getting only glimpses while Anne and her parents had lengthy studies of as many as three or four at a time. We did not find the brown jay, which we had been assured was common along any river in Mexico.

A large number of flycatcher-like birds began making themselves visible in what appeared to be courting displays. They proved to be the Xantus' becard. We saw two coppery-tailed trogons, a Gould's wren and a Townsend's warbler, all new for our life lists.

En route back to Brownsville later that day, while crossing on a man-powered ferry over the small Rio Purificacion, we saw on a sand bar four jacanas, one immature and three adult. We had seen an immature jacana, a rail-like bird with the longest toes you ever saw on anything, at Santa Ana refuge.

The ferries were the most frightening thing I had encountered since U.S. route 76, a clay monstrosity shown on the maps as a highway across the tops of Georgia's highest mountains, which we made the mistake of taking two years ago last April. "Chalan" says an unobtrusive sign by the road. About three car lengths farther you are on the brink of a precipitous, rough 40-foot drop with probably a right angle turn half way down to a narrow river. Maybe at your side, but more often at the other side, is a flatboat with two men on it with poles so fastened to a wire stretched across the river that they can propel the ferry across by moving the poles. The car must advance to the far end of the ferry to dislodge its stern from the mud, then, while crossing, back to the stern to give the bow a lift onto the opposite mud bank. The ferry is about two feet longer than a modern car. A good place to have good brakes! Small boys ride across with each car chanting "nickel, nickel." The far side of the river is just as precipitous and just as rough.

Irby Davis, of Harlingen, who is the final authority on birds of the Rio Grande valley and one of the few real experts on Mexican birds, had steered us away from our original plan of driving to Laredo to enter Mexico for a two day trip to Monterrey and back.

"You will be going 200 miles away from the birds before you start," he said. "You will get more scenery near Monterrey, but no birds you couldn't get in Texas."

He listed for us and described some 20 birds which we would have a fair chance of finding between Brownsville and Victoria. We did not get near all of them, but we did well enough to make us want to try it again with more time. He told us he could route us on a three-week trip into Mexico, giving us specific stopping places to find particular birds which he would describe, on which he would almost guarantee a list of 100 new ones. It sounds entrancing and sometime we shall try it.

We had left Chicago in a small blizzard Wednesday, March 8, driving through intermittent snowstorms two-thirds of the way down through Illinois. We had compiled a list of only 13 species of birds when we reached

Sikeston, Mo., well after dark. We got 21 the next day, driving as far as Little Rock, Ark.; 19 the third day going to Nacogdoches, Tex., and 23 the fourth day, reaching Houston shortly after noon. All were observed from the car with few stops of more than a few minutes in likely spots. None was remarkable. We were surprised that in our entire trip we heard not one western meadowlark, which we get regularly only a few miles northwest of Chicago. The eastern sang for us all the way and even in the Rio Grande valley. We were told that the western lark is occasional near Houston. Sparrow hawks, loggerhead shrikes, and mockingbirds were the most frequent roadside birds of this part of the trip.

After getting established Saturday in a tourist court at the south edge of Houston, I called George Williams, a faculty member of Rice Institute, who edits the Texas section of the *Field Notes* for the National Aubudon Society. I had written to him a few weeks earlier asking for suggestions as to where we should look for birds in the Houston-Galveston area. His reply came promptly and included an offer to guide us personally on a tour if we had room in our car, and could make it Friday or Sunday. Our party of four was in two cars as far as Houston, one thereafter, so we set out early Sunday morning with Mr. Williams, Anne and I in one car and his son Stephen, 14, and Bernard and Prudence, Anne's parents, in the other. Stephen is about as good at bird identification as is his father, so the arrangement was perfect.

I have heard all my life of southern hospitality. I thought I had experienced it in generous quantity in three previous vacation trips through South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. But I must say that Texas hospitality such as we encountered surpasses any description. Everywhere a mutual interest in birds was all the introduction needed when meeting the specialist in a given area. He or she would drop everything to devote all time and energy to making your birding experiences a complete success.

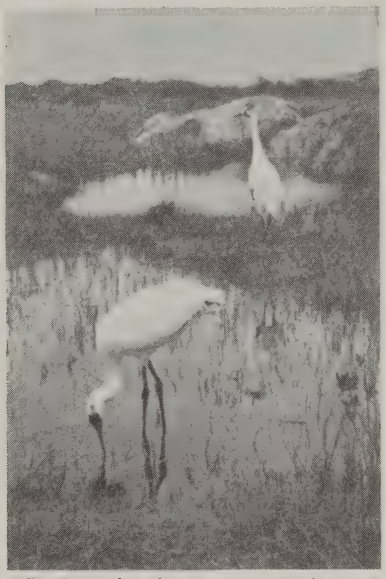
The Williamses in Houston, Mrs. Jack Hagar in Rockport, Mr. and Mrs. Irby Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Terry Gill in Harlingen, simply outdid themselves in helping us find all the birds that could be seen.

We took a somewhat roundabout way to Galveston with several stops for woods birds. It was too early for the big migration waves, but we ran up a list of 90 birds for the day, boosting our trip list from 40 to 101. Galveston island is a flat treeless terrain, for the most part, with numerous small ponds and watery meadows which were alive with ducks and shorebirds. We saw our first long-billed curlews, in flocks of a dozen or more, our first mountain plover, and our first white-faced glossy ibis for our life lists. Most of the birds were familiar eastern species. The black-necked stilts were a beautiful find though, and Williams said it was the earliest record for them that he knew of. A common loon in full breeding plumage was diving and floating within 20 feet of a busy causeway lined with fishermen, and he or his identical twin was still there two weeks later when we toured the island again. Pelicans were numerous, both white and brown, as were the various egrets and herons. An American bittern "froze" in the edge of a pond in which the reeds were much too short to give him his customary concealment.

We left Houston next morning and drove to Palacios, on the coast a

short distance north of Aransas wildlife refuge. Our best sight en route was snow and blue geese in two flocks; one we estimated at 1,500 and the other at 1,000. The snows outnumbered the blues 10 to 1 in both flocks. We saw numerous hawks, including many female marsh hawks, almost never a male.

Tuesday we visited the Aransas refuge and reached Rockport that night. The birdlife changed to a mixture of eastern and western species, with the western kinds making up a fairly large proportion of the total.



Captive whooping cranes at Aransas. (*Photo by Prudence Douglas*)

Just outside Aransas we saw Audubon's caracara, which we had seen on Alexander Sprunt's Audubon tour of the Okeechobee region in Florida. We counted ten that day, and continued to see them frequently from there south into Mexico. The ground dove, reddish egret, three sandhill cranes, our first ladder-backed (Texas) woodpecker, and our first vermillion flycatcher were our principal finds at Aransas. We did not see the flock of wild whooping cranes, which the warden said were in an area closed off from the public at this time because it was about time for them to start to their unknown nesting grounds. Crip and Josephine, however, walked up to a few feet from us in their enclosure and posed readily for Prudence to snap with her camera. A few weeks later their area was to be closed for their nesting venture, which resulted in the first baby whooping crane ever hatched in captivity. Rusty, the nestling, disappeared a few days later after making the first page of newspapers all over the country. The size of a whooping crane is unbelievable until you have stood four feet from him and looked him in the eye, at eye level.

We were disappointed in not being able to stay in Mrs. Hagar's cottages that night. We had made reservations, but some birding guests had failed to leave on schedule and we put up a block away. The next day, though, Mrs. Hagar put herself completely at our service and led us on a bird chase that for energy and good results equaled any we have ever experienced with Amy Baldwin in the Chicago area. We listed 92 species, adding to our life lists the eared grebe and the tiny Mexican grebe, the lark sparrow singing, Inca dove, Mexican cormorant, black-crested titmouse, red-shafted flicker, golden-fronted woodpecker, road-runner, and a reddish egret in its rare white phase. The road-runner did not appear at the expected place while Mrs. Hagar was with us, but she told us to drive back that way just before sundown and he would almost certainly appear.

He did, running down the road just as a road-runner should, then off through the chaparral to prove the aptness of his other name, the chaparral cock.

We also got a close view of a clapper rail swimming across a narrow inlet and strolling up the mudbank into the rushes from which he is so often heard but so seldom seen. We retraced Mrs. Hagar's route the next day and explored a few other roads in the area, but we soon were convinced that the birds knew she was not along. We got a total of 64 by noon, but added to the trip list only the marbled godwit, which we had seen in Florida, and the Cuban snowy plover, a life lister. Long-billed curlews were everywhere in sizable flocks, and we got another road-runner and more white-faced glossy ibis. We had seen white ibis the day before. We drove on to Corpus Christi that day and to Harlingen the next, which was Friday.

En route to Harlingen we got our first ferruginous rough-legged hawk, cinnamon teal, six scissor-tailed flycatchers, and several Harris's hawks. On a pond south of Harlingen we saw our first Texas kingfisher on a perch only a few feet below an eastern belted kingfisher. Both could be seen at the same time in the glasses, giving an excellent comparison of size and color. The little Texas bird is nearsighted, and perches only a few feet above the water. Nearsighted or not, he makes some astounding catches for a bird his size.

I had not written to Irby Davis, whom I knew only by reputation. Both Williams and Mrs. Hagar had advised us to look him up. I found his number in the telephone book, called him and simply told him we were a party from Chicago looking for birds and would appreciate being told some places to go. When I told him where we were staying he said a young man staying there also was scheduled to come over to his home in a few minutes and suggested I find him and come along. We found him, Horace Jeter of Shreveport, La., and he, Anne and I went to the Davis address. Jeter had met the Davises only the night before and had spent the day in Santa Ana refuge, looking for a specific list of birds he had drawn up as possibilities before leaving home. He had failed to find three of them, and was back for more advice!

Within a few minutes we felt that we were part of the family. When they found that besides the valley birds we hoped to see some desert species, Mrs. Davis, a biology teacher in the high school, suggested that we all go over to Terry Gill's house, as Gill was the authority on desert birds. Off we went, arriving to find that it was a pre-arranged date with the Gills for a birthday party for Mrs. Gill. Jeter told us later that the night before it had been a party for Mrs. Davis' birthday, at which he was a guest. Mixed in with the birthday festivities we examined maps on which Gill pointed out spots where we should find the pyrrhuloxia, the scaled quail, black-throated (desert) sparrow, and other upland specialties.

Meanwhile Davis had described for us the Santa Ana refuge, where he said every one of the valley birds could be found if you spent enough time. He offered, and we accepted with alacrity, to accompany us on a birding trip to the gulf coast Sunday morning for shore birds and Sennett's white-

tailed hawk, which we had looked for in vain coming through the King ranch.

The next day, Saturday, we went to Santa Ana, but found the gate locked and the caretaker, George, not there. We wandered around the edge and walked as far in as the building which had been a private club before Davis' efforts had finally resulted in the 2,000 acre area being made a federal sanctuary. Everyone but me saw the green jay. We all got the Sharpe's seedeater, the verdin, and the derby flycatcher, a magnificent creature. We then decided to try the desert trip, which should have been made early in the morning instead of midday as we did it. We saw a pyrrhuloxia, desert sparrows, and white-necked ravens (which we mistakenly identified as crows and were quite surprised to see after not having seen any for some days). We saw three skinks, but no rattlesnakes among the cactus. And no scaled quail.

Sunday morning we picked up Davis and headed for the coast, east and a bit north from Harlingen. We stopped at the edge of a woods, walked about 300 yards from the road, and approached a large yucca, about 12 feet tall. A great horned owl flew out of a hole some three feet below the top. We moved closer and could see a young owl eyeing us solemnly from the hole. The parent had perched not far off and also watched us. We saw numerous Harris's hawks and added the curve-billed (Brownsville) thrasher and the Cassin's sparrow to our life lists. Many Cassin's were singing in the flat country near the coast. We found no large concentrations of shore birds, but finally saw two Sennett's white-tailed hawks, soaring fairly close above us.

Monday at Santa Ana refuge we ran into a vast migration of blue-gray gnatcatchers; thousands of them flitting around, and on every bush or tree. Life lists birds added there included the Sennett's thrasher, Audubon's oriole, Audubon's warbler, red-billed pigeon, Couch's kingbird, Sennett's warbler, Texas sparrow, Swainson's hawk, the immature jacana, and finally an Arkansas kingbird, which we had been searching for all the way down from the north. Again, all except me saw the green jay! Next day, shortly after crossing the Mexican border, we found some black-bellied tree ducks, but did not get to see the fulvous tree duck.

Returning north we saw two avocets beside a small lake in King ranch and a yellow-crowned night heron near Corpus Christi. The morning of Wednesday, March 29, just three weeks after leaving Chicago in a snowstorm, we awakened in Washington, Ind. with snow falling gently. Spring was still far away at home.

Our trip list totaled 193 species. New for our life list were 49 birds.

6139 Kenwood ave., Chicago

New Book for Beginners

John Kieran of "Information Please" fame and author of *Footnotes on Nature* has written a new book. As the title, *An Introduction to Birds*, would indicate, it will appeal particularly to beginners in bird study. The book is 8¼ x 11¼ inches and has 77 pages beautifully illustrated with colored plates by Don Eckelberry. In non-technical language Mr. Kieran describes 99 species. This attractive little volume is priced at $2.

A Bouncy Owl!

By Ellen Stephenson

On May 5, 1950, Chicago was experiencing one of its traditionally windy days — to be more accurate it was decidedly above the ordinary with a wind velocity reaching a violent 54 miles an hour at times. No doubt it was the tail end of the tornados reported in the southwestern states a day or two before.

By 9 o'clock Saturday, May 6, when we started our birding around Montrose harbor, the wind was still blowing from the west-southwest at a brisk 20 to 25 miles an hour. We had a feeling that birding would be difficult in such a blow. Little did we guess what an outstanding day was in store for us.

Finding a sora rail on the lawn near the road was the first interesting sight of the morning. Rails discovered far from their natural habitat during migration always intrigue me. Then, in going out of our way to get a look at the first redstart of the year, we came upon our No. 1 unusual bird for the day — a mockingbird. By that time we realized that this was a possible big-list day. Birds were everywhere. In no time we had 30 species recorded.

In the afternoon Eggers Woods proved extremely exciting also. A flight of hawks, probably 100 in all, perched about in the trees in that comparatively small wooded area. The majority were broadwings, and sharpshins were numerous. Cooper's, red-shouldered, and rough-legged were represented, and I'm sure red-tails, although not seen by us. We had one duck hawk.

But the prize bird in the flight was a Swainson's, adult with wide brown breast band, seen momentarily and recognized as the common hawk on last year's western trip. An estimate of 200 hawks in and around Eggers woods was made by other observers for that day.

A chuck-will's-widow was recorded but not seen by our group until the following day.

The Lake Calumet area came through with a rarity for us in the Chicago area too — an eared grebe, in changing plumage. Fortunately it was near enough to the cinder flats to make identification possible even with his continuous diving.

For my money, the high spot of the day occurred back in Lincoln Park near the sanctuary. With each meeting of another birder the excitement grew, as everyone reported great finds of his own. It was while trying to track down a reported black rail that I flushed up, out of the tall grass just east of the sanctuary, the bird that gave me the greatest thrill of that or many another day — a burrowing owl!

Luckily the park department was dumping sand and dirt nearby and the owl, seeing something remotely like his prairie habitat, alighted on the mound and to my great surprise and delight, promptly bowed to me.

After one quick glance at him through my binoculars I tore out after my companions screaming through the howling 40 mile an hour wind that

I had found *the bouncy owl with the long legs* — in my excitement I couldn't think of his name!

I'm sure I gave some of the non-birders in the park a few moments' pause before my friends finally heard my shouts and we all sprinted back. Thank heaven the owl was still perched on the dumpings! We all had very satisfactory looks at him before the next truck load of dirt arrived and he took off. He did not fly far, as he was seen hours later in about the same area.

When checking our lists at the end of the day, we found that including our interesting accidentals and the large concentration of hawks at Eggers Woods, we had in the neighborhood of 115 species clocked. Just a birders' heaven kind of a day was May 6, 1950.

815 Colfax ave., Evanston

What Killed These Birds?

While at the meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and the Inland Bird Banding Association at Point Beach State Forest, Two Rivers, Wis., May 5-7, 1950, members had a chance to look at freshly killed birds. The sad occasion came on the afternoon of May 6, and the morning of May 7, when 64 dead birds were picked up.

During the afternoon of May 6, a very high wind was brewing with gusts up to 75 miles an hour. We may never know what killed the birds, as they were found all along a stretch of open highway, a distance of 6½ miles, between Two Rivers and Manitowoc. This highway is along the edge of Lake Michigan, with the lake about 50 to 100 feet from the road.

These birds must have been blown into and killed by one of three obstacles — four strands of high power lines, about one dozen trees, or passing automobiles. Many of the victims were in good shape, while others were grease spots on the highway. With more than 6 million birds wearing bands, not one of the 64 picked up had a band.

This killing seemed to be only in the one area, as the trip from Manitowoc to Chicago on the afternoon of May 7 revealed only about six birds, about normal for highway killing.

Most of the birds were small ones, with only two large ones. The list consists of 28 species:

Bittern, 1; king rail, 1; mourning dove, 1; chimney swift, 2; yellow-bellied flycatcher, 1; bank swallow, 5; purple martin, 3; short-billed marsh wren, 1; catbird, 9; olive-backed thrush, 3; gray-cheeked thrush, 1; black and white warbler, 2; Tennessee warbler, 2; orange-crowned warbler, 2; Nashville warbler, 1; magnolia warbler, 4; myrtle warbler, 8; palm warbler, 2; ovenbird, 3; redstart, 1; meadowlark, 2; Savannah sparrow, 2; Henslow's sparrow, 1; chipping sparrow, 1; field sparrow, 1; white-throated sparrow, 2; Lincoln's sparrow, 1, and swamp sparrow, 1.

Karl E. Bartel, Blue Island, Ill.

On the Rim of the West

By Dorothy Helmer

I visited in southern California the winter of 1948-49. My parents have a seaside cottage in the town of Leucadia, about 25 miles up the coast from San Diego. We live on the very rim of the western world, the high, red cliffs of the Pacific.

Mother and Father, who are not bird watchers, named our small cottage Far Horizons. But when I am there we call it after the little sea-going bird, the Least Petrel.

If one is going to be in San Diego county for any length of time and has some interest in the natural history of the region, it is a good idea to make an early contact with the Museum of Natural History in Balboa Park, San Diego. Right next door is the famous outdoor zoo with its tropical setting, like Chicago's zoo at Brookfield, only more spectacular. The museum has a fine display of mounted birds of the county, many of them in habitat groups, and it is headquarters for all the local nature societies. I was sorry to miss their Christmas bird census when they tallied more than 100 species.

My own ramblings were mostly afoot and within a radius of three or four miles of our cottage. That doesn't sound like very much; but in that radius I had the ocean beach, sea cliffs and salt marshes; cultivated fields and orchards; streets of the village, and the chaparral-covered hills of the back country. The place seemed to be teeming with birds. The ocean and its birds I love best.

Illinois shorebirds are mostly miniatures, the sandpeeps of our beaches, river margins, and mudflats. Shorebirds of the west are large in comparison, though a 20-inch godwit or avocet is unremarkable for size against the immensities of California space and contours.

Lake Michigan is colored like mother-of-pearl; but the sunny ocean off San Diego is blue like the heart of an opal, with an opal's irridescence. Often I sat on the high cliffs or walked the wide sands at low tide.

Wintering just at the foot of our ramp was a flock of 8 to 25 marbled godwits, biggest of the sandpipers, cinnamon-colored shorebirds with long legs and long, upcurved bills. When they fly they make a bright splash of cinnamon in the sunshine, and when at rest they often stand solemnly with their chins drawn in against their puffy breasts. Someone has called them "the sanctimonious godwits" and they do look a bit stuffy.

The godwits occupied the middle foreground of the beach, and near them were always a few black-bellied plover, robin sized, with stubby bills and a washed-out gray color all over, their winter plumage belying their names. Behind them on the rocks would be a Hudsonian curlew or two, somewhat smaller than the godwits and of more graceful habits, dark gray with long, downcurved bills. Above the curlews, bobbing along a wet, rocky ledge, would be a lone spotted sandpiper, our little peet-weet of the middle west. Gregarious in the summer, he's a solitary bird in winter.

Up the beach a short way from the godwits, and not so easily ap-

proached were large flocks of sparrow-sized birds, the sanderlings. We see sanderlings in migration in smaller numbers in Illinois, but they seem like different birds on the coast. They are so much a part of the movement of the waves. They feed at the edge of the surf and I like to watch their little black legs twinkle as they run back and forth with the advancing and receding waves. At a distance they are like white pebbles washing on the sands. They fly in unison, too, very close to the surface of the waves, shifting and turning, dipping into the trough and rising over the crests "like a scarf waving in the wind." Nowhere in bird literature and seldom in portraiture do I find comment on the amusing attribute which both distinguishes and cartoons the sanderling — the way he goosesteps!

Between the godwits and sanderlings were other small birds, almost invisible against the sand and rocks — semi-palmated plover, like miniature killdeer, the color of wet sand; occasionally a snowy plover, white like the rocks.

In the foreground, wading far out in the surf, were a few willets, more slender than the godwits, plain blue-gray until they fly. Then they surprise you by flashing a beautiful black and white pattern in their wings. On alighting they stand poised a moment with their wings stretched high overhead, like elongated butterflies.

These birds are vocal; they always fly up calling: harsh, burry notes of the godwits, full of consonants; plaintive cries of the black-bellied plover and sand-peeps; bell-like music of the curlews and willets reminiscent of our yellow-legs.

Out beyond the willets and beyond the long lines of breakers, silently riding the swells of the ocean, were the red-throated loons, They are misty, gray and white silhouettes in the distance, but their tip-tilted bills appear in binoculars and identify them. Beyond the loons are the great kelp beds and they are black with birds. They were too far for my 7x35 glasses to identify, but those who know them say there are scoters and other diving ducks, and the marine birds who spend their lives at sea: fulmars, shearwaters, petrels; sometimes a rare, lone wanderer from a far land.

Still farther out one can see the whales blowing and the porpoises playing up and down the coast and hear seals barking. And there are groups of fishing smacks with hovering flocks of gulls. Great twisted stalks of kelp break off and wash ashore and in their meshes may be hundreds of squirming baby octopuses. Beachcombing for all the odd marine life thrown up by the waves is the popular local nature hobby.

Overhead in the updraft from the cliffs sail the gulls and pelicans. Half a mile up the beach in a secluded place, gulls like to settle on the sand in a flock of a hundred or so, and among them I could usually find six or seven different species. Perhaps it was just because my eyes followed him that the big dark-mantled western gull seemed most abundant. He is a beauty! His breast and head are like snow against the slate gray of his mantle; his bill is a clear yellow splotched with red and black at the tip; and his legs look so clean and pink.

I thought he was handsomer than the striking black, white and red Heermann's gull, "handsomest of the gulls," which comes up from Mexico,

or the pale, glaucous-winged gulls (the tan, immature ones) which straggle down from larger flocks farther north. Just once I saw a kittiwake, squat and tern-like among the gulls. He is usually found farther out on the kelp beds and ashore he seemed restless, soon winging his way straight out to sea. I heard that a kittiwake was seen on the shore of Lake Michigan that winter and I wondered how such a sea bird liked our middle west.

The common tern of Lake Michigan is a rarity here, and our rarity, the Forster's tern, is abundant in the west. Sometimes there were Caspian and royal terns. Occasionally there were elegant terns from Mexico; and in migration season one hopes to see the world's greatest traveler, the Arctic tern. None of the terns came often to our beach.

Above the sands where the gulls settle is a high headland where the horizon lies in a great wide circle. And here I liked to watch the sunset, terns calling musically far out at sea, long black lines of cormorants in the sky flying home to roost. The sun sinks rather swiftly into the Pacific, a red ball behind the mists. The sky turns an ethereal blue, and pale pink streamers light up the clouds and the snows on the distant mountain tops. Sometimes a thin little half-circle of a new moon comes out on the western horizon with both its horns upturned, to ride like a boat on the afterglow.

In the salt marshes we saw avocets, scores of avocets! Remember the red-letter day when we saw *one* on the outskirts of Chicago? A striking black and white bird with blue legs in the winter, in the spring he adds a flush of rusty rose to his breast. Soon in April the avocets would be scattered or gone, but in their place would come another curious bird, the oddly graceful black-necked stilt. Karl Plath of the Brookfield Zoo called his three stilts "the three graces." Everybody likes them, but all the bird watchers are especially glad when spring has come to southern California and the stilts are again in the salt marshes, house-keeping.

Spring comes to California in April. When I arrived in December the hills were brown, overlaid with lavender shadows and hung with purple mists. When I left the first of March the hills and valleys were verdantly, verdantly green, after our copious and rather cold winter rains.

During the long dry years the seeds of the wildflowers lay dormant, but after the wet season there would be a fireworks of bloom. I had a card from home the first of April. The hills and valleys and deserts, it said, were filled with blossoms. The vacant lots around our cottage were carpeted with wildflowers in yellow, white, pink and blue. The California poppies I transplanted to our wild garden were cups of gold and the flaming eucalyptus trees were red with bloom. I was there another April, and I could see it now.

In our winter garden we had hummingbirds, so many hummingbirds! They hovered over our trumpet flowers and jeweled the white blossoms of the common eucalyptus trees. Along in January, when you see a hummingbird high in the sky coming down like a dive bomber, you know that nearby a Mrs. Anna is sitting coyly in the bushes; spring is round the corner and the Anna hummingbirds are courting. The Anna is our only winter species. It is named for an Italian duchess, and the male is royally colored, with a red throat and forehead, and amethyst red which glances and

changes in the light to green and copper, to velvety black, and back to a glowing amethyst again. In migration time the Annas are joined by five other kinds of hummingbirds. Think of them among the flaming eucalypti!

There were many other land birds of these three winter months to be remembered.

At our bird bath were Gambel's sparrows and Audubon's warblers (at this season every other land bird seems to be one of these species or the rosy house finch); Townsend's warblers, brown towhees, mockingbirds, green-backed, Lawrence's and willow goldfinches — such tame, gentle little fellows, sitting in a row on a hand rope near the bath — a Cassin's kingbird, which is the common winter kingbird here; western bluebirds, and the ever-present Anna hummingbirds. Each had his own technique of bathing. The big blackbirds strutted and stalked through the water; the kingbird perched above it, dashing down jauntily to wet a wing, then up to his perch as airily as if he were catching flies. And who do you suppose chased all of the big birds away and had the bath to himself? Of course it was the little Anna; and when he was in possession he did not take a real bath, after all.

Elsewhere were a sage thrasher; Lincoln's sparrows in large flocks with their color pattern bright in the sunshine and their legs very pink; fox sparrows so dark and gray I did not know them at first; green-tailed and spotted towhees, and a road runner in the chaparral at the edge of town; pipits in flocks up to 20 in the vacant lots between the houses along shore. Red-shafted flickers were always a surprise in flight when their red wing linings throw an aura of color about them. Black phoebes, horned larks, and western meadowlarks were about. Mourning doves, sparrow hawks and California shrikes were common in the village along telephone wires. Bush-tits, tiny, ragged gray birds as acrobatic as chickadees and sounding like juncos, traveled along the hedges everywhere. Cedar waxwings liked the red pyracantha berries. Dusky warblers, tule yellow-throats, and red-winged blackbirds were in the marshes along with the avocets, snowy egrets and little blue herons. Eared grebes were common, but there were not many pied-bills. Green-winged teal instead of blue-winged and huge flocks of pintails and shovellers. All of these, mind you, within a radius of three miles of our cottage. Yet the natives (non-bird watchers) said there were not many birds there any more!

943 Judson ave., Evanston

Bird Walks

During the spring migration, when birds can be found almost everywhere in large numbers, is an excellent time to interest beginners in ornithology. Those who thought that robins and English sparrows were the sum total of the bird world can get a provocative glimpse of the fascination of bird study.

The Illinois Aubudon Society this spring helped dozens of persons get that glimpse through bird walks in the Chicago parks. Under sponsorship

of the Chicago park district, leaders from the Illinois Aubudon Society, the Chicago Ornithological Society, and the Evanston Bird Club conducted walks in five parks on four Saturdays in May; in Lincoln Park the walks began March 26, and continued through May 20.

Indicative of the interest shown and the number of persons reached is a report from Mr. and Mrs. James Decker, who headed the walks in Jackson Park. On May 6, the number of hikers totaled eight and the number of species seen, 62. The following week, May 13, the number of bird walkers increased to 40, including 20 Girl Scouts from Troops 402 and 156 of the Bryn Mawr Community Church and five Hyde Park High School students with biology assignments to look for birds. The number of species seen totaled 78. On May 20, the group again numbered 40, including 20 Girl Scouts and 15 high school students; 65 species were seen. On May 27, 30 persons went on the walk, including 15 Girl Scouts and 10 high school students, and 36 species were seen. Fortunately, with both Mr. and Mrs. Decker well qualified to lead the walks, the groups could be divided so no one party was too large.

Miss Doris Plapp, who led walks in Lincoln Park on nine Saturdays, also reported a large proportion of Boy and Girl Scouts and high school students in her groups. Average groups there had 12 to 15 hikers. The two biggest days were May 6 and 13, with 85 species seen each day. Miss Plapp reported a total of 150 species seen in the nine walks.

Other leaders and the parks in which they conducted walks included Mrs Pauline Esdale, Columbus Park; Abel Schwartz, Indian Boundary Park; Mrs Janet Zimmermann and Harold Lenz, Gompers Park, and Mrs. Reba Campbell and Theodore Nork, River Park.

The leading of bird walks is a contribution that the Illinois Aubudon Society hopes to maintain and increase, for it is an invaluable way to interest the citizenry in birds and nature in general. An appeal for leaders will be issued again next spring, and it is hoped that it will get a good response. It is not necessary to be an expert at bird identification, for most of the hikers will be beginners and the field will be entirely new to them. It certainly is no sin to have to look up a confusing warbler in the book!

Another Life History

The eighteenth volume in the series of life histories of North American birds by Arthur Cleveland Bent has been published as bulletin number 197 by the United States National Museum of Washington, D.C. It follows the same general plan of Mr. Bent's other scholarly works which he began nearly 40 years ago. The new volume covers the life histories of wagtails, shrikes, vireos and their allies. It comprises 400 pages with 48 plates, almost half of which are devoted to vireos. Like all of its predecessors it will be prized by every bird student. As long as the supply is available it may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., at $1.50 per copy.

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of bird protection. Work of this kind is receiving increasing approval on the part of the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests. The economic welfare of our country is seen to be involved in the preservation of wild birdlife, and the situation is both an incentive and a challenge to the most thoughtful and far-reaching effort.

The Illinois Audubon Society finds itself in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life and of the natural scenery of which it forms a part. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and of wayside tangle set apart for preservation is speedily appraised by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, of lake and water course in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. For these reasons the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts relating to the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS.....$5.00 annually
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(ORGANIZED IN 1897)

For the Protection of Wild Birds

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What the Nature Camps are Doing

By ANNE DOUGLAS BAYLESS

RENEWED ENTHUSIASM toward conservation work and a host of ideas that may be used by local clubs came out of the "delegates' session" held at the National Audubon Society's camp near Greenwich, Conn., in August.

The five-day, intensive session was attended by representatives from 20 local societies, most of them from the middle west. There are accomodations at the camp for only 20 persons, so invitations are rotated and not each local Audubon society or affiliate of the national group receives an invitation every year. This year three Illinois groups were represented: the Vermilion County Audubon Society, formed only this year, with Mrs. Delores Fulton of Catlin, Ill., as its delegate; the Rockford Nature Study Society, represented by Milton Mahlburg, director of the Natural History Museum in Rockford, and who also unofficially represented the North Central Illlinois Ornithological Society; and the Illinois Audubon Society, which I represented.

Other delegates came from such midwestern locations as Painesville, Columbus, Youngstown, and Akron, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Dubuque, Ia.; St. Louis, Mo., and Chatham and St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada, both near Detroit.

The purpose of the delegates' session is to give the local groups a chance to talk over their mutual problems with one another and also to gain ideas from the camp, its staff, and officials of the national society, whose headquarters in New York are only about 30 miles away. In addition, the delegates get a condensed version of the regular two-week sessions held at the camp for nature leaders, teachers, youth workers, and whoever else wants to attend. Despite a packed schedule, there also is time for fun, such as swimming daily in the camp's private lake.

At one session, each delegate in turn told about his or her organization, its aims, membership, and methods of procedure. Kenneth Morrison, editor of the *Audubon Magazine* and director of public information for the society, was present for part of this and Charles E. Mohr, camp director, was present throughout to lend suggestions.

The first thing I found in seeking ideas for the Illinois Audubon Society was that its problems are somewhat different from those of all the other groups represented, for it is a state society, and the others are not. Statewide participation, one of the aims of the Illinois society, is something that none of the other organizations has to worry about.

Virtually all of the societies represented have monthly meetings with programs somewhat similar to those of the Chicago Ornithological Society,

the Evanston Bird Club, and similar local groups throughout Illinois. This is something the Illinois Audubon Society has never done, and something that would be virtually impossible to do and have the whole state represented.

However, the organizational workings of some of the societies were of interest for possible pointers for Illinois. One of the most highly organized and successful of the groups represented is the Detroit Audubon Society. Miss Louise Lockeman, the kind of hard-working, enthusiastic young person that every group could use more of, reported on this society. Its activities function through committees having a board member as chairman, and its board of directors has about 40 members, so that it supports a large number of committees.

Among the committees are the bird survey committee, which publishes and keeps up to date a mimeographed booklet of all birds to be found in the area, sold for 10 cents; a Junior Audubon Society committee which is in charge of the several hundred junior societies in Detroit; a committee in charge of a leadership training course given for teachers, Scout leaders, and the like on nature subjects; a lecture committee which is in charge of a bureau to provide speakers on nature subjects for other organizations, and to act as a clearing house for nature photographers whose pictures are useful in giving programs; a committee in charge of young people's groups in the high schools, which have their own field trips and such activities as making bird feeders and houses, suet cakes, and the like. These groups have their own meetings, but attend screen tours with the adults. Miss Lockeman said this has been found an excellent way to bridge the gap between Junior Audubon activities and adult membership.

Other activities of the society, also conducted thru committees, include auctions of such articles as cakes, books, or china, to raise money for a scholarship for any one of the Aubudon Nature Camps; field trips, and week-end "camp-outs" each spring and fall which whole families frequently attend.

The Detroit society sponsors nine Audubon Screen Tours each season, instead of the usual five. The series costs $5 for a single membership and $10 for a family. This is in addition to membership in the society, which is $1 a year.

Almost all the groups represented at the Greenwich camp charge for their screen tours, which the Illinois society does not. Many of them use the tours as a means of making a little extra money. The Illinois society, however, is not even considering putting an admission charge on screen tour lectures, as this is not permitted in the James Simpson Theater of the Chicago Natural History Museum, where they are given, and it is felt that a wider audience is reached if there is no charge.

The St. Louis society, with 2,000 members, is another markedly successful group. Its representatives were the Misses Camille and Lois Wamhoff, sisters, who said the society has brought the screen tours into the schools. It has a monthly publication, and also receives good publicity in the St. Louis papers. Each year it sponsors a Loyalty night, a money-raising dinner project with proceeds used to give trips to camp or nature

books to young people. One of its current projects is the establishment of a Trailside Museum in Forest Park, St. Louis, with which local garden clubs are helping. The museum would have various kinds of nature exhibits and bird banding demonstrations.

The Tropical Audubon Society, with headquarters in Miami, was reported upon by Mrs. Ruby Ruettger, who said one of its important projects for the year is a nature workshop, free to teachers and leaders of nature groups of all kinds. The one sponsored last season had such a big response that it was unable to care for all the applicants. Teachers of the workshop were drawn from the faculty of the University of Miami.

The need for aggressive leadership in a conservation organization such as the local Audubon societies was pointed up by Edward J. Whelen, newly elected president of the Brooklyn Bird Club. Whelen's group has the conservation problems of a big city — similar to those that beset Chicago. He reported on such problems as the filling-in of the marshes of Jamaica Bay, thus destroying the wildlife habitat of the area. He also spoke of hunting on refuges of the area, in and out of season, with the tacit approval of local game wardens. He said that 15,000 ducks and large numbers of great blue herons and black-crowned night herons winter there and provide a target for illegal gunners. One of the Brooklyn Bird Club members took a photograph of the game warden hunting there himself, in his own blind.

Whelen, an extremely hard working conservationist, hopes to do as much as possible to stop such practices. He agreed with Mohr and Morrison that hunting pressure is increasing everywhere, especially on the fringes of big cities, and is hard to hold back. In cases like the filling-in of Jamaica Bay (Illinois has dozens of situations like it) frequently all conservation organizations can do is to minimize the damage rather than stop it entirely, but it is a threat of which all such groups must be aware, Whelen said.

A suggestion made by Morrison to another representative whose club is worried about disappearance of marshland might prove of use to many organizations. Morrison said that frequently such areas can be leased for a certain number of years at a low cost when buying the property might be prohibitive. With a strong wire fence around it and signs posted, a marsh will be comparatively safe for wildlife.

Morrison gave other helpful advice to the delegates, and announced that the National Audubon Society is preparing a handbook for branches and affiliates that will describe projects these groups can undertake.

Next year, 1951, will be the 100th anniversary of Audubon's death, and the national society at the time he spoke was planning an Audubon Centennial week for early in the year.

Events throughout the year are expected to have national publicity, and it will be an ideal time for local societies to capitalize on this publicity for their own activities, he pointed out.

Speaking of the organization of societies, he suggested that each club should have committee chairmen for membership, publicity, programs, field trips, education, and conservation, among others. The conservation chairman is especially important, he asserted, and part of his work might

be to create a better understanding generally of the ecology of the area — how the plants and animals live together and are mutually dependent on each other.

Morrison spoke of the *Audubon Newsletter,* which goes out monthly to each branch and affiliate, and said the national society believes something beyond it is needed to tell what groups all over the United States are doing and provide for an exchange of ideas. (A page of the *Audubon Magazine* under Morrison's direction was devoted to this for a while, when Morrison was the national society's Minnesota representative. He had to give it up when he took over as editor of the magazine.)

The National Audubon Society is eager to enroll all local Audubon societies as branches and affiliates. The Illinois society is neither. Under this plan, each member of the local group pays $5 annually, and becomes a member both of the local and national society for that fee, receiving the *Audubon Magazine* as well. The local club, in turn, gets $1.25 of this $5. All billing is done by national, which also sends out literature to prospects and performs other services. The local group retains complete independence, however. The fee charged may be more than $5 if desired, in which case the local group would get more than $1.25 back, of course.

This is a question that has been brought before the Illinois society many times. A big stumbling block is the fact that the Illinois group could not operate on $1.25 per member, as it costs more than that each year to finance the quarterly *Bulletin,* and it must pay for the screen tours as well as other incidental expenses.

It would hardly seem feasible to try to charge more than $5 a year for a dual membership, so the Illinois society would have either to cut down drastically on the *Bulletin* (costs of which have risen) or find some way of raising money other than dues.

On the last evening of our stay, John H. Baker, president of the National Audubon Society, came out for dinner and addressed us. He told principally of the work and aims of the national society, and reported on some of the national conservation problems in which it is interested, including the bill to protect the bald eagle in Alaska, the protection of the California condor's nesting area, and the fate of Dinosaur National Monument, in which the bureau of reclamation plans two power dams.

Speaking of Dinosaur and the various national parks, which are constantly besieged by persons who want to build dams, graze sheep, or otherwise damage them, Baker asserted that it is an important fight for everyone to preserve what little segments of wilderness we have left in the United States.

He compared these areas to Central Park in New York, and asked his audience to imagine what would happen if the park land were opened to builders and the park destroyed. The park as it stands is of tremendous recreational value to New Yorkers, far outweighing the value it would have as tax-producing property with buildings on it.

Baker contended that the same situation exists nationally, as our wilderness areas are destroyed, dammed, ditched, and drained. Once they

are gone, their value will be realized, but then they are irreplaceable. For that reason they must be saved now, he pleaded.

Baker reported that one of the purposes in founding the system of nature camps (the first one, in Maine, was begun in 1936) was to train teachers and youth leaders more effectively so they in turn can interest youngsters in nature and conservation. The Junior Audubon clubs need more leaders. Baker said the clubs, with a current membership of 300,000 to 400,000, ought to enroll a million members a year.

The four nature camps now in operation have a total enrollment of 1,000 adults a year. Baker said the national society hopes eventually to have a dozen camps, reachable from all over the country.

The foregoing may sound as if the delegates spent all their time listening to talks and speeches, but this was far from the case. We had hardly arrived and got settled when it was time for the first field trip, a hike through the camp.

The Greenwich camp differs from some of the other Audubon camps in that it is a perfect laboratory for the study of ecology.

It is a former farm, which had both woods and meadow. The woods is still there, and the meadowland has been allowed to grow up. As a result almost every stage of plant succession is right there. There is clipped lawn; overgrown meadow; brushy thickets; an old orchard; young forest; climax forest, and all the stages in between. With the guidance of Mohr, the camp director, and other staff members, we tramped along the trails where the plants, trees, ferns, mushrooms, and wildlife were identified for us. I think few, if any, of the campers had ever been able to visualize so well the interdependence of plants and animals. It became obvious why one plant might be disappearing, because its habitat might no longer be favorable.

We also learned how introduced species can become dangerous — in this case the oriental bittersweet, which is trying to "take the place," strangling trees and crowding out more desirable species. We were told it cost $4,000 to eradicate this vine from an eight-acre plot on a neighboring farm. It resembles the familiar bittersweet we all know, but is not the same plant.

We also practiced taking soil temperatures in areas representing different stages of plant succession, and did soil testing as well. For example, the temperature in a small meadow near camp headquarters was 70 degrees, and the soil tested alkali, probably because it was limed when the plot was a cabbage patch 25 years ago, Mohr said. We found by actual test how the soil beneath evergreen trees tends to be acid, killing off the undergrowth.

Mohr, who is a genius at making such learning fascinating and whose knowledge is almost inexhaustible, explained after these lessons how an intelligent approach to conservation is the only way to make men see the folly of destruction to wildlife and its habitat, and the only way to restore them.

For example: When a certain species of animal disappears (usually a game animal is the one that attracts attention) many uninformed persons

will blame predators. No predator will kill off a species, Mohr emphasized. Man is to blame in virtually every case. Hunting pressure may have a lot to do with it, but the fact that the animal or bird's cover or its food is gone is much more important.

An instance of this that he mentioned was the disappearance of the ruffed grouse from certain areas, because its drumming logs were gone! The grouse must have fallen logs on which to drum, among other things, if it is to survive. No amount of restocking would be successful in such an area. Another instance is the futile attempt often made to restock streams with fish. If the stream itself is not favorable for fish life, the restocking never will be successful. The stream may lack oxygen; it may be polluted. Instead of restocking, or before restocking, the headwaters should have trees planted, perhaps; there should be trees along it to shade it and keep the water cool; the water should be pure, not polluted with industrial waste or sewage; there must be food; all these things must be taken into account.

In addition to our trips into the field, we had afternoon or evening sessions to discuss what we had seen, embellished by motion pictures on conservation subjects and talks by Mohr. Everyone took copious notes, and the camp gave us some excellent mimeographed forms to use as guides should our local organizations be interested in taking up some of the same subjects.

Another field trip took us to a neighboring forest, several miles from camp, that is owned jointly by some of the wealthy families in the area and which contains a bridle path they use. The camp has been given free admission to explore it. A different type of forest from that found inside the camp, it produced different plants and animals, and quite a number of birds. (Birds are treated as but one phase of the conservation picture, and no special emphasis was placed on them.) Some lumbering was done in one area of the tract during the war, and that area is slashed and ugly, but it had its compensations.

One of these was a blackberry patch that found room and light to grow luxuriantly, and the berries were ripe when we were there. When we could be dragged away, we set about computing the ages of some of the big trees that are now stumps. We rubbed a soft pencil on a strip of paper tacked across the stump, so the rings were reproduced for counting when we got back to camp. We computed dry years and wet years by the width of the rings.

Another field trip took us to the shore, at Greenwich Point, a city beach for Greenwich residents. We went down to one end where bathers were few and where salt marsh and tide pools offered up all kinds of interesting things — crabs of several kinds, sea anemones, oysters, clams, and three fascinating kinds of worms, roundworms, flatworms, and bloodworms. These last three were found at another spot where a young boy was digging on the tidal flats for bait. There were many others which few of us middle-westerners had ever seen. This trip also offered an excellent chance to see water birds, including a large number of black-backed gulls, about the only species that I had not seen frequently around Chicago. We ended

that day with a picnic in a small park right on the water's edge, and ate a wonderful meal while perched on the rocks watching a school of porpoises perform and herons fly over.

Our final field trip was on the last day of our stay, to Fairchild Gardens, officially part of the camp although separated from it. (This has no relation to the Fairchild Gardens near Miami.) It was started by Benjamin T. Fairchild, a local man who endeavored to grow examples of every type of plant native to Connecticut, but it contains many that are not native — his friends gave him starts and cuttings and he put them in regardless. After Fairchild's death a local organization was formed to administer the garden, but it withered from lack of funds and the garden was given to the National Audubon Society in 1945 after it had been neglected entirely for several years. It is now in the capable hands of Leonard J. Bradley, botanist, who was unable even to find signs of the original paths when the society took it over.

It has since been cleaned up amazingly, but pains were taken not to destroy its natural, informal air. There are no flower beds; everything grows virtually in the wild. The only clearing has been of paths and of vegetation that threatened to smother some of the rarer species. Bradley identified more than 100 species for us the morning we visited it. It, too, is a fine place for birds, as there are quite a bit of woods, a stream, and several ponds in the gardens, which contain 127 acres.

The area is so planted that it offers exciting yields all through the growing season, with a continuous succession of blooms. It has been the basis for articles in several gardening and nature magazines.

I think few of the delegates had ever learned so much about nature and natural resources, and in such an enjoyable fashion, as they did during those five days. I cannot recommend too highly that anyone with the time to spare attend the Connecticut camp some summer, for it is not necessary to be a teacher or youth leader to be accepted. Accomodations are modern; the meals, served in a remodeled barn with a huge picture window overlooking the woods, are excellent; the staff is top-notch, and I, for one, couldn't have improved upon anything in any way. If it were possible for more Illinois residents to attend a session there, I don't think this state would be a "conservation desert," as it has been called, any longer.

6139 Kenwood Ave., Chicago

Send in Your Census Early

Christmas Census reports should be sent as early as possible in January for inclusion in the next Bulletin. They should include the terrain covered, miles by foot or auto, weather conditions, and time devoted to census; species seen, preferably in regular A.O.U. order, and names of persons participating. Send your report to the Illinois Audubon Society, Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago 5, Ill.

Live Fence a Wildlife Refuge

By Richard T. Orr

A rose, cultivated in Japan for centuries as an ornamental, today is spearheading a crusade for conservation among Illinois farmers. Scientists call it *Rosa Multiflora*. It's known commonly as the multiflora rose.

The rose first appeared on Illinois farms a decade ago. Before that it had been used in this country for some years as an ornamental and as a hardy rootstalk on which growers could bud other ornamental varieties of roses. Then the soil conservation service of the United States department of agriculture found it could be used for soil conservation and erosion control.

In the last decade an estimated 10 million plants have been set out on farms of this state in a program directed by the Illinois department of conservation. Lack of sufficient planting stock has held back the work. Disinterest and lack of information about the rose among farmers had to be overcome.

These problems still exist. But the rose is winning out. In the fall of 1950 and the spring of 1951 another 10 million rose plants will have been planted on Illinois farms — double the number of the last decade!

By next spring 25,000 to 30,000 Illinois farms will have rose plantings. Three state nurseries going full blast can't supply the demand. The largest of these is at Jonesboro. Another is at the Rice Lake wildlife area near Peoria. A third is at the Pontiac state prison. The three will account for roughly 60 per cent of the roses for planting this fall and next spring. Private nurseries will supply the rest.

Farmers, it must be admitted, are like a lot of city people. They have to be sold on conservation. That's where multiflora rose comes in.

"It's the one plant we can sell to farmers on its practical value," explains Bruce Diehl, northern zone biologist for the state conservation department.

What's practical about a rose?

Sales talks that are winning new adherents among farmers every day center about the value of multiflora as a "living fence." A statement by Wallace L. Anderson and Frank C. Edminster, respective chiefs of the biology divisions of the upper Mississippi and northeastern regions of the United States department of agriculture, is a typical approach:

"Only recently have farmers come to realize the many advantages of this plant. Chief among these is the fact that it will make a living fence that will keep both your live stock and your soil within its boundaries.

"It is also the least expensive fence that you can establish and the cheapest to maintain. One thousand plants will give you 1,000 feet of living fence. Where fences of wire or wood do not shelter birds or rabbits, multiflora rose furnishes welcome cover for farm wildlife.

"As compared with the usual fence, a living fence of multiflora rose is a thing of lasting beauty. In the spring it carries masses of white blooms; in the winter its red fruits brighten the fields. Unlike other fences that

must be repaired or replaced, multiflora rose fences last a life time and will continue to serve your children."

Multiflora rose is a plant which on the best soils attains heights of as much as 10 feet and comparable widths. Like other roses, it's a thorny plant. In May and June in Illinois it produces many small white blooms. They are followed by clusters of small, round, red berries or hips, each with eight or nine seeds inside. The hips remain from the time they appear in early summer until the following March.

In its growth the rose achieves a form which has been compared to an umbrella. Its thorny, fast growing canes extend upward 4 to 6 feet or more, then droop over, the side canes almost touching the ground. The plant does not spread from rootstalks, but the tip of a cane, when pressed into the soil, may take root and grow.

The rose grows best in deep, fertile, well drained soils. The best time for planting it is in the fall after October 1, but before the ground freezes. It can also be planted in spring as soon as the frost has left the ground.

Within 3 to 6 years after planting (depending on soil and weather conditions), the rose will provide a tough, impenetrable hedge that will hold back cattle, horses, sheep and goats, and hogs that are ringed. As a contour fence it has been found suitable for installing between cropland and permanent pasture and between fields used for rotation grazing.

Anderson and Edminster point out that rose hedges aid in better land use by keeping live stock from large gullies, eroding stream banks, farm pond areas, woodlands, and other areas best suited for wildlife land. They add the hedge is also effective as soil-protecting cover in areas difficult to revegetate, such as highway banks, sand blows, mine spoil, gullies, and eroded slopes.

The main emphasis on multiflora rose from the standpoint of wildlife has been on its superior value as cover. Its importance as a source of food for birds has been considered secondary. Anderson and Edminster say multiflora hips or fruits are eaten by some game and song birds when other food is scarce.

"It is not a very important food for any kind of farm game," they conclude. "Farm game will benefit most where the rose is used to protect small areas of grass cover plants that furnish their favorite foods. Its use as a living fence places it on parts of the farm where protective woody cover is usually scarce."

Bruce Diehl, however, believes the rose has been underestimated as a source of food. He has observed many species of small birds — field sparrows, juncos, brown thrashers, and thrushes among them — going after the fruits with apparent relish. The plant is especially important as a food source in winter when deep snow covers other foods, he says.

"Aside from food, multiflora rose provides ideal winter refuge and escape cover for birds and small animals because of its thorny nature," says Diehl. "It also affords excellent travel lanes for ground nesting birds and nonmigratory birds. All insect eating songbirds, as well as game birds such as the quail and pheasant, are attracted to it."

One other advantage of the multiflora rose appeals to farmers. This is its contrast to the osage orange. Many years ago every midwest farm had its osage orange hedge. It was a wonderful hedge for wildlife, with its tall, thick, thorny growth and spreading branches. But farmers came to consider it an enemy.

The spreading branches shaded too many acres of cropland. The wide-spreading root systems of the osage orange stole too much moisture and valuable nutrients from the soil, reducing yields. Furthermore, these hedges required periodic back-breaking trimming.

Out they came! Within the last 25 years most of the osage orange hedges in the midwest have been ripped out. Now you can travel many miles through Illinois without seeing one. But on a windy day you can see thin clouds of dust sweeping across fertile farms — precious topsoil that took many thousands of years to accumulate being blown away within a few short years.

Or after a heavy rain you can walk along the roadside and see in the ditches loam that should have remained in the fields to produce crops. And where are the farmers' friends, the insect-eating songbirds that used to nest in the hedgerows?

Soil conservationists believe one important answer to some of these problems can be found in multiflora rose. Much progress has been made. But this crusade won't be won overnight. Many remain unconvinced.

Perhaps typical of these is the reply of one central Illinois farmer. Having torn out his osage orange and ringed several beautiful trees that used to shade his horses on the edge of his fields, he was asked to plant the rose. "Brush!" he snorted.

Brush, indeed. Brush that will keep his soil from washing and blowing away. Brush that will bring a song and a flash of feathered color back to his fields — and perhaps help cut down his bill for chemicals to fight crop-destroying insects. Brush that will beautify his landscape and make his farm a better place to work and live.

640 Grace St., Chicago

An Apology

Our president, Dr. R. M. Strong, wrote a series of notes on conservation problems intended for publication in this issue. The copy was unfortunately lost and could not be found when due at the printing office. We hope to have it in the next issue.

Any Termites Here?

A brown creeper, that shy little bird of the woods, was seen by Miss Jane Bayless one early October morning industriously working over the crevices of a brick wall along busy W. 22nd street in Chicago.

Back Roads are Rewarding

By F. J. Freeman

We inveterate bird watchers who each year start our list on Jan. 1 and add to it bird by bird until the total Dec. 31 is around 200 birds — maybe more, usually less — know the thrill of running into a "pocket" of new species that give our list a tremendous boost. This delightful experience was mine last June when on the 18th and 19th I drove with my two boys down to DuQuoin, Ill. The boys stopped over for a week's intensive music session at the Egyptian Music camp. We arrived about 4 o'clock and after seeing the boys registered, I checked in at a hotel and found a long evening before me.

To make the most of the trip I had planned on taking a drive on the back roads in the evening to see what I could see. Heading east toward Benton, I found the road running through swampy bottomlands formed by the overflow of the Little and Big Muddy rivers. The season this year being apparently a little late, the frogs were making merry in the swamps and I have never heard such a variety or volume of amphibious music. It was truly astonishing. Coming back after dark I saw the torches of two parties of hunters out after the frogs. After I turned north from Benton, I found a side road running west toward the Big Muddy and headed for it. One mile west I reached a crossroads at which was situated the Palestine church. The white frame structure was modest, unimposing and uninspiring. It being a Sunday evening, the earlier comers were loitering outside and were curious of the stranger who passed them by.

Continuing on west, I passed an oil rig at work in an apparently new field so far as oil was concerned. Floodlights allowed for uninterrupted night drilling. Farther on I passed a deserted farm house and the road began to worsen. It finally dipped down the bank of the flood plain of the Big Muddy and was so badly eroded at this point that it required careful steering. The roadside growth grew so close that it touched the car on both sides. A culvert crossed under the road which was covered originally by three slabs of concrete. One was missing and necessitated a crowding to one side to pass over.

Finally the road ended at the bank of the Big Muddy. Formerly it turned south over a small bridge that had lost all its planking and then over a larger iron bridge over the river itself. Half the planking on this bridge was gone and one had to watch one's step. I have gone to some lengths to describe the conditions of the road as I have found things in such a dilapidated state whenever I have gone off like this downstate. When you go off on a side road down there, you may very well have to turn back.

The present use for this old road was to bring fishermen down to the river banks, and they approached it from the west as well as from the east. However, that evening it was deserted. There was no sound of human making; no hum of traffic, no train whistle, no voice calling, nor even the barking of a dog. But there were birds aplenty in this wooded bottomland, and they were singing their vespers. Three or four wood thrushes

were singing at once, and many cardinals. The song of the cardinals down here seemed much louder and more varied than up north, and it may be because of the competition. I caught the flash of orange when I saw two redstarts chasing each other through the silver maples. I walked onto the bridge and scared some sort of small olive-colored lizard with brilliant red on throat and jaw line. Looking over the railing onto the muddy river, I saw a flash of yellow in a pile of driftwood and identified my first prothonotary warbler. I had a good look at it as it hopped about and took a dainty bath. Its yellow was the clearness of a dandelion with no hint of orange. When it flew up from its bath into a tree and fluffed itself, I could see that the primaries and tail feathers were narrowly edged with white or light gray. Before I left the spot another similarly colored prothonotary appeared for a moment.

Up onto a dead branch over the river flew a small bird and by the yellow forehead and underparts and double wing bars I knew I was seeing a blue-winged warbler. Another small bird was singing loudly and clearly in the undergrowth, and although I caught momentary glimpses of it, I could not identify it. After crossing the river I started up the road when a yellow-breasted chat flew up from the brush onto a wire and "sang."

Its singing was a mixture of noises. One was a harsh, rapid chat-chat-chat; another a soft, low whistle all on one note; and another sounded like a short, sharp blast from a policeman's whistle. Its flight, too, was peculiar. It flew up with dangling legs as Audubon depicts in his painting, and it seemed to flap its wings slowly, clapping them together over its back. I could hear the soft slap of the wings hitting each other.

Across the road in the dark of the woods and close at hand came the loud, clear yodeling of a bird — something like a blue jay, but much louder and more bell-like in quality. I could not see the bird and did not identify it until next morning when I traced a similar song to a Carolina wren.

By now it was getting dark. The wood thrushes had stopped singing, the cuckoos had finished their short burst of evening song, and the cardinals were quitting one by one. Some sort of a night heron flew over the tree tops, and I stopped to identify the leather plant, a species of clematis with thick, leathery purple sepals that enfolded the flower proper. Off in the distance I heard the hooting of the barred owl. Its eighth hoot was drawn out and deflected downwards like the books say, but otherwise the hoots were not in groups of four each, but were something like this: hoo-hoo, — hoo-hoo-hoo, — hoo-hoo-o-o-o. It reminded me of the crowing of a rooster somewhat, except that the cock-a-doodle-do-o-o was replaced by the hoo business.

The next morning on my way home, the side roads yielded more new birds. I saw a cerulean warbler fly up from the road — blue-gray, white belly, wing bars, and heavy dark breast band. Hummingbirds were common on the telephone wires, Carolina wrens were heard several times, I saw an upland plover, and I stopped to watch the antics of a mockingbird. This bird was perched on the top of a dead trunk at the side of a farm yard.

It imitated bird songs as it is supposed to do, but its voice was sweeter than that of either a catbird or thrasher. This bird every now and then would jump up in the air about three feet and then alight back on its perch. It did not snap up insects in its flight, but it seemed to be doing it for the fun of it. I believe this is courtship behavior.

Mockingbirds were plentiful. When seen perched at a distance they usually can be identified by their tails, which are long and twitchy.

I drove on up to Olney to look up the Robert Ridgway estate, but when I found it out in the country a few miles from town, I discovered the gate locked with a sign saying to phone the caretaker. Having spent considerable time in the morning looking at birds, I did not feel I could spare the time to drive back to Olney to call the caretaker on a chance I might be admitted.

In driving downstate and back I find that the dickcissel intrudes itself upon one's senses. It seemed as though every other stretch of telephone wire between two poles had a bird on it, and as I drove by it went "dickcissel." By the time I neared Chicago I was thoroughly dickcissel conscious and mistook the silhouette of a towhee, of all birds, sitting up on a telephone wire, for a dickcissel! In a way this was not so surprising as the astonishing fact that the towhee was *singing* like a dickcissel. Its tail was down and its head was thrown up like a dickcissel. The phrasing, timing, and spacing of the song was exactly like a dickcissel's. The first two notes were too musical for a dickcissel, but the last three or four were exactly the same. It sounded to me like this:

ree-
Be- sis-sis-sis,

over and over again.

Ornithologically a trip downstate is always rewarding. The year before at Giant City State Park we heard a chuck-will's-widow among the voices of many whip-poor-wills. We saw a pileated woodpecker, and saw and heard the Carolina wren, tufted titmouse, and white-eyed vireo in the early morning. We saw too the summer tanager, broad-winged hawk, and turkey vulture. Bob-whites are common throughout the state and indigo buntings are the second commonest roadside bird. The most common roadside bird is the dickcissel, and if you do not watch out, you too, like the towhee, will come home singing like a dickcissel.

320 N. Elm St., Itasca

Christmas Gift Suggestion

Menaboni's Birds. Paintings by Athos Menaboni; text by Sara Menaboni. 1950. Rinehart, New York. $10.

Thirty-two radiant paintings in color are the chief glory of this impressive book. Menaboni is a distinguished artist with his keen vision, his faithfulness to detail, his appreciation of the character, beauty, and dramatic quality of his subjects. He is remarkably successful in depicting action. He does not paint distant backgrounds, but the plants accessory to

his birds are exquisitely portrayed. It is hard to choose favorites among so many lovely pictures, but mention might be made of several that especially appeal to the reviewer: the little blue herons, pileated woodpeckers, kingfishers, ruby-crowned kinglets in rhododendron, and Kentucky warblers nesting under a jack-in-the-pulpit.

There are 13 full-page plates in black and white and a great many charming drawings of flowers, insects, birds, etc., scattered throughout the text, but not mentioned therein. It would have added much to the value of the book if these had been named and the same is true of the plants in the plates. Each color plate is labeled on the back, from seven to 10 lines giving a brief description of size, plumage, and habits. It would have been better if a fuller account of each species had been placed opposite the picture.

The 12 chapters of text are pleasant, rambling chats about the Menabonis' varied experiences with birds in their woods, their aviary, and their home. Tenderest care is lavished on all creatures that come into their hands and they do not mind that birds seldom can be house-trained. "Furnishings could be cleaned or replaced, but nothing could ever replace the fun and additional data we got from Joseph (a sparrow hawk) until we released him." It is sad to think of the vulnerability of Valle Ombrosa to woods fires, carelessly or deliberately set. And sad to read how in Georgia, as elsewhere in this country, wonderful great woods, flowering shrubs, and wild flowers are ruthlessly destroyed to prepare land for home-sites.

Menaboni's Birds will make a handsome Christmas present. With its wonderful pictures and its earnest message of love for wildlife it will bring to many people a new awareness of the treasures in nature.

Margaret M. Nice, 5725 S. Harper Ave., Chicago

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of bird protection. Work of this kind is receiving increasing approval on the part of the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

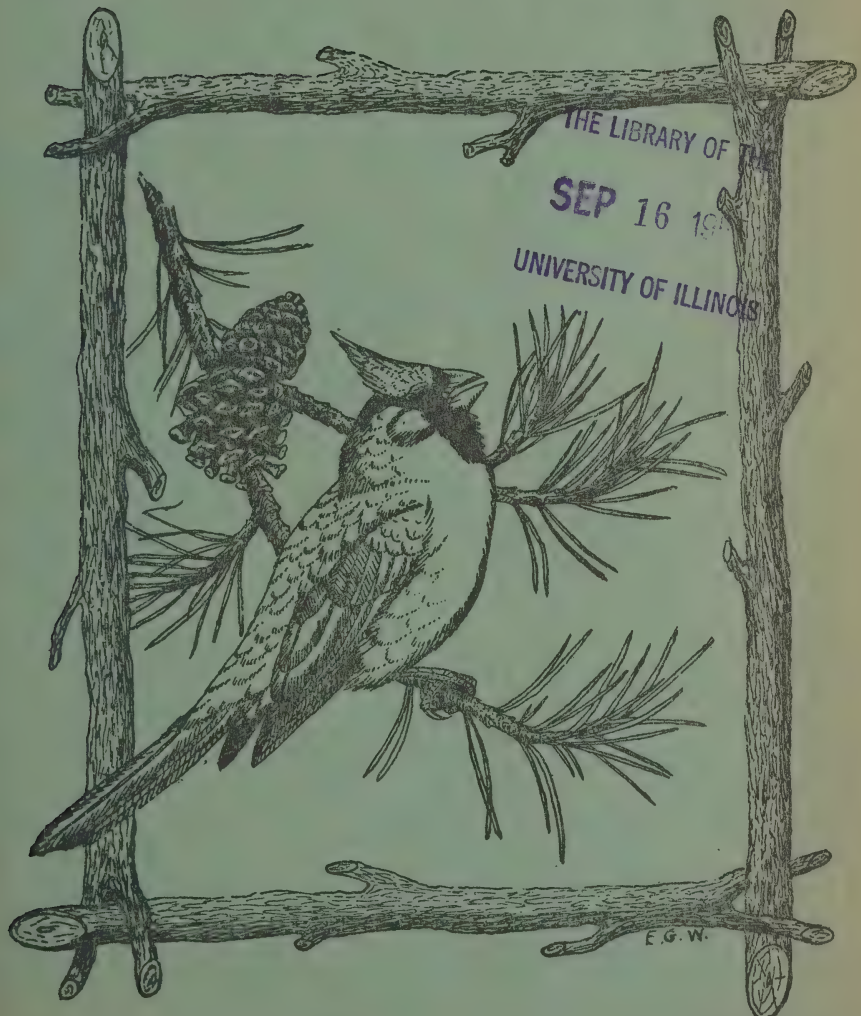
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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

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A History of the Illinois Audubon Society

By C. O. DECKER[1]

PROBABLY THE FIRST concerted move toward bird protection in Illinois was initiated by a class of nine boys in Oak Park, Illinois, under the guidance of the Rev. George B. Pratt. This group, in 1886, became known as the "Forest and Stream" organization.

In 1890 a "Chicago Society"[2] was started under the presidency of Mrs. E. Irene Rood and in 1893 it was incorporated with about 70 members. Its most important work was that it inspired and largely managed the "Audubon Congress"[3] held in Chicago in October, 1893, during the Columbian Exposition. Mrs. Rood's work took her away from Chicago, and after a life of about four years the Society's activity ceased.[4]

In 1896 and 1897 another strong movement toward bird protection started. The group was organized through the efforts of such working bird lovers as Mrs. Sara A. Hubbard, Mrs. John V. Farwell, Jr., Mr. Ruthven Deane, Rev. George B. Pratt, Mr. Edward B. Clark and others; on April 1, 1897, eight years before the establishment of the National Audubon Society, the Illinois Audubon Society, the fourth of the state societies, was incorporated with the following aims and principles:

1. To encourage the study of birds, particularly in the schools, and to disseminate literature relating to them.
2. To work for the betterment and enforcement of state and federal laws relating to birds.
3. To discourage the wearing of any feathers except those of the ostrich and domestic fowls.
4. To discourage in every possible way the wanton destruction of wild birds and their eggs.

These aims have been broadened through the years to include conserva-

FOOTNOTES

By Dr. R. M. Strong

1. Efficient treasurer of the Illinois Audubon Society for twenty years and editor of the *Bulletin* for ten years. Mr. Decker has also given freely of his time to much of the other work of the Society. He is now an honorary director.

2. The "Chicago Society" was undoubtedly the organization known as the "Women's Committee of the World's Congress Auxiliary on Ornithological Congress."

3. The "Audubon Congress" was probably the "World's Congress of Ornithology," held October 18-21, 1893, at the Memorial Art Palace of the World's Columbian Exposition. Addresses presented were published in 1896 by the Charles H. Sergel Co., with Mrs. E. Irene Rood as editor. This volume is indexed at the Chicago Public Library under her name.

4. A fuller account of the early history, by Mary Drummond, appeared in the fall number, 1920, of the *Bulletin*, and is the basis for the first two paragraphs of this article.

tion in its various aspects, support of the formation of wild-life sanctuaries, and opposition to all efforts to infringe in any way upon the state and national parks.

Mrs. Henry W. King as president and Miss Emily S. Rumsey as secretary-treasurer took the reins of the new Society and at the first annual meeting in 1898, reported a membership of 580 adults and 2800 juniors.

To "disseminate literature" was very early taken to include illustrated public lectures sponsored by the Society, the first being written by Mr. Clark, illustrated with slides furnished by Mr. Dugmore, and delivered by Mrs. Farwell in 1902. Mr. Henry Oldys was engaged for a series of lectures through the state in the fall of 1913, and on a four-week's tour spoke in 64 towns to over 100 audiences and 30,000 people! In the spring of 1914 he made another tour on which he spoke before 57 audiences of 13,000 people in 32 towns. Moving pictures were beginning to gain popularity, and in 1917, Mr. Orpheus M. Schantz found a way to reach a movie audience in Sheffield when he persuaded the theater owner to sandwich an hour's bird talk between two of his reels. Recently for several years the Society has been cooperating with the National Audubon Society by using its Screen Tours for an annual program.

The Society was active in 1912-13 in support of federal action on a migratory bird law that was passed in the last days of the congressional session and signed by President Taft only a few hours before his retirement. A bill prohibiting the importation and sale of wild bird feathers was up at about the same time, and in 1916 it was announced that all feathers of wild birds had been withdrawn from sale by Chicago stores.

The first "Comprehensive Check List of the Birds of Illinois," one of the many contributions to the Society by Benjamin T. Gault, for many years an active member of the board of directors, was issued in 1922, and a revision of this valuable work is now being prepared.

Spring outings were a regular activity of the Society for many years, beginning in 1924 with a day spent along the Des Plaines River south of Riverside. In 1940 the first of several meetings in cities other than those immediately around Chicago, was held at Havana, Illinois, with the cooperation of the Illinois Natural History Survey. Other sessions were held at Quincy, Savanna, Springfield and Urbana. Gasoline rationing in the war years interfered with that program, but its resumption is now under consideration. Bird walks in Lincoln Park, Chicago, have been conducted every spring since 1940 under the leadership of Miss Doris Plapp, and this past spring, in a few other parks with other leaders.

Meetings of the Society were held in various places until the secretary's report in 1912 noted that "part of our work has been carried on at the Chicago Academy of Sciences for several years — and our headquarters will hereafter be in that building." A change in the by-laws of the Academy was made permitting a somewhat closer association and in 1930 a formal affiliation with it as the "Section of Popular Ornithology" was accomplished. From that time all lectures and other public meetings were held there until the removal of the Society to the Chicago Natural History Museum in the early part of 1949.

Seeking a closer contact with the membership, spread well over the state as it was, a regular publication was thought desirable. The first number of the *Audubon Bulletin* was issued in 1916. This was continued under various editors, consisting of annual and semi-annual numbers until the *Bulletin* was made a quarterly in 1939. A total of 77 numbers has been issued so far. Many famous ornithologists have been among the contributors, and the Christmas census report has become a regular feature.

At the annual meeting in 1898 Mr. Ruthven Deane was elected president, which position he held with great honor and benefit to the Society until 1914. He was succeeded by Mr. Orpheus M. Schantz (1914-1930), Prof. C. W. G. Eifrig (1930-1941), and Dr. R. M. Strong, who is now president. The society was without a vice-president until John M. Blakely was elected in 1913, to be followed by Albert L. Stevenson (1914-1916), Jesse L. Smith (1916-1931), and Mrs. W. D. Richardson (1931-1950). Mrs. Richardson was made honorary vice-president in 1950, and three new vice-presidents were elected. They are Paul E. Downing, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Pauline Esdale, 2nd vice-president; and Dr. Alfred Lewy, 3rd vice-president.

The Society has been most fortunate in its secretaries, through whom so much of the work has been carried on. Miss Rumsey was succeeded by Miss Mary Drummond (1898-1912), Miss Mary A. Hardman (1912-1914), Mrs. Frederick H. Pattee (1914-1918), Roy Monroe Langdon (1918-1920), Miss Catherine A. Mitchell (1920-1938), Miss Doris A. Plapp (1938-1944), and Mrs. Janet H. Zimmermann (1944—). In 1912 the treasurer's office was separated from the secretary's and Miss Amalie Hannig served until 1918, when the offices were again combined in the persons of Mr. Langdon (1918-1920) and Miss Mitchell (1920-1925). Mr. Schantz combined the duties of treasurer with those of president (1925-1927) until the offices were again separated by the election of Stephen S. Gregory (1927-1928), C. O. Decker (1928-1948), Harry R. Smith (1949-1950), and Theodore Dunmire (1950—).

At the annual meeting of 1913 Miss Esther A. Craigmile was named a member of the board of directors, which position she held until she retired and was named an honorary director in 1950, the longest official connection of any member with the Society. The 1913 meeting was also attended by Miss Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Pattee, Mr. Schantz and Mrs. Jesse L. Smith, all of whom were very active members and officers for years afterward. Others who were already on the board and whose work left a definite impression on the Society's activities were John M. Blakely, Rev. George B. Pratt and Frank H. Woodruff.

Later the Society benefited from the services of such well-known ornithologists as William I. Lyon, Dr. Alfred M. Bailey, Benjamin T. Gault, Dr. Howard K. Gloyd, Edward R. Ford, Fred S. Lodge, R. J. H. DeLoach, Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice, Dr. T. E. Musselman, Mrs. E. T. Baroody, O. C. Durham, Dr. Alfred Lewy, Earl G. Wright, Leo K. Couch and Philip A. DuMont.

The Society now has its office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, from which all its activities are directed. All lectures are held in Simpson Theater at the Museum.

Present-day activities of the Illinois Audubon Society include:

1. Continued encouragement of the study of birds, particularly by school children, and distribution of literature regarding ornithology and conservation of natural resources.
2. Presentation of the National Audubon Society Screen Tours.
3. Conducting spring bird walks in various parks in Chicago and suburbs.
4. Publication of the Illinois Audubon Bulletin.
5. Active support of conservation programs, both local and national.

The Society, in pursuing these activities, endeavors to further the aims and ideals which its founders inaugurated with such foresight more than fifty years ago.

6450 S. Kenwood Avenue, Chicago

Unusual Birds Seen in Evanston

By Mrs. Janet H. Zimmermann

A rare visitor from the spruce forests of Alaska is spending the winter in Evanston, enjoying the hospitality of Mrs. George Sollitt, 2324 Lincolnwood Avenue. It is the varied thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*), a relative of the familiar robin. The bird is feasting on the fruit of a Siberian crab-apple tree. Members of the Evanston Bird Club and the Chicago Ornithological Society have been swarming over the Sollitt's back-yard, eager to add the bird to their life list of observations. It was first seen on December 15.

In the summer breeding season the varied thrush nests in spruce forests from Alaska and the Yukon to British Columbia, northwestern Montana, and northeastern Oregon. It winters mainly in the mountains of interior California, south to Los Angeles County. The Evanston visitor is probably a female. It looks at first glance very much like a robin, but the bill is longer and thinner. It has yellow underparts, with a rather smudged gray necklace around the upper breast. There are two golden-orange wing-bars, and a golden-orange eye-stripe. The back is a dark grayish-brown. The mature male has a bright rust-colored breast, wing-bars and eye-stripe, and a black necklace.

Another unusual sight is a flock of nine Hungarian, or European partridges (*Perdix perdix*) on the campus of Northwestern University. They have been ranging up and down the lake-front from the water works at the foot of Lincoln Street, to Dempster Street. This bird was introduced into the northwestern and middle western states from central Europe to supplement the diminishing numbers of native upland game birds. It has become established in Illinois only within recent years, and is still considered a rarity.

1211 Michigan Avenue, Evanston

The President's Column

THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS of the Illinois Audubon Society realize keenly the need for more participation in the work of the Society by the members at large. This column is part of a program for this purpose. The by-laws have been revised with provision for an annual meeting in the spring at the Chicago Natural History Museum for members only, when there will be a program and some transaction of business. The first such meeting is scheduled for the early part of 1952. The annual tea in January, first held in 1949, is an effort in this direction. It has proved to be a great success.

The Board of Directors at their December meeting accepted the resignation of the editor of the *Bulletin*, Mr. John R. Bayless, with great regret. Mr. Bayless has served efficiently for two years, and there was no one in sight to take his place. So I took over the job of assembling material for this number with help from Mr. Charles Decker, who was the editor for ten years preceding Mr. Bayless. At the tea on January 28, we contacted Mr. Paul Lobik who agreed to take over the editorship. He assumed the work a few days later, preparing copy previously submitted for publication. Mr. Lobik is assistant advertising manager for the Central Scientific Company, and has had considerable experience which will be of value in the editing of the *Bulletin*.

The Illinois Audubon Society, as pointed out by Mr. Decker in this issue, was organized at a time when the killing of wild birds for millinery purposes threatened the extinction of some species. Protection of birds and stimulation of bird study by amateurs were the main objectives of the Society. Later, its activities were extended to conservation of natural resources in general, especially of wild life. It is therefore logical that we print the following conservation material:

Conservation News and Notes

Bald Eagle Bill. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill this past summer which would extend to the bald eagle in Alaska the same protection which it gets in the United States. Senator Edward C. Johnson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Affairs, introduced a companion bill in the Senate, and he tried unsuccessfully near the end of the session to get unanimous consent to its passage. In view of the disgraceful slaughter of the bald eagle in Alaska, this failure was most disappointing. There is danger of extermination of this fine bird in Alaska and in the United States. A campaign of education is needed if we are to save it.

Dinosaur National Monument. The proposal to invade the Dinosaur National Monument in northeastern Colorado and northwestern Utah by construction of two high dams for irrigation and power development was approved during the last summer by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman. One of the dams would be built across the Yampa River at Echo Park, near the juncture with the Green River. The other dam would be built in Split Mountain Canyon across the Green River itself, below the

Echo Park dam. These dams would back up the waters in the exceedingly beautiful canyons of the Dinosaur Monument and destroy much of their scenic value.

This scheme was prompted by local groups interested in private profit. The proposal was opposed by the National Park Service and by conservationists all over the country, who pointed out that water for power purposes and irrigation could be obtained by alternative plans which would not involve invasion of the Dinosaur National Monument. It was also noted that approval of the proposal would set a dangerous precedent for other schemes involving the invasion of national parks and monuments.

The day after this unfortunate decision by Secretary Chapman, Senator Thomas of Utah introduced a bill in the Senate to authorize construction of those dams at an estimated cost of $207,000,000.00. The project would undoubtedly cost more than this. Congressman Walter K. Granger also introduced a bill in the House for the same purpose. No action was taken in that session, but the scheme will be pushed when there is opportunity. *Letters should be sent to President Truman opposing such legislation.*



Waterfowl population. Director Albert M. Day of the Fish and Wildlife Service reported during the past summer on the waterfowl population situation. Although the inventory of the previous winter indicated an upswing in wintering populations of ducks and geese, this assumption was found in subsequent months to be wrong. The number of young birds was not as great as was expected. In addition, more ducks and geese were killed in the fall of 1949 than in the preceding year.

The January 1950 inventory showed a considerable decline in both the Mississippi river and Pacific flyways. When the results were announced, various groups of hunters, including Ducks Unlimited, challenged the winter inventory. Many hunters desire as large a bag as can be obtained and a long open season. They are not properly concerned about future waterfowl populations. Some of them claim to be conservationists, but they often give little more than lip service to real conservation.

The following quotations are taken from "Conservation News" for August 1st, pp. 8-9. These are part of a condensation of Director Day's report:

> State departments are banding together in Flyway Committees to correlate their information, and the Fish and Wildlife Service is supplying regional coordination as rapidly as the need develops and funds become available, in order that all of the information may be translated into management practices. More air planes, boats and automobiles are at the disposal of the technicians now. A vast amount of data from all of these public sources, as well as such information as can be supplied by Ducks Unlimited, goes into the grist mill each year.
>
> Yet the best regulations that can possibly be made are still of minor importance when we contemplate the over-all needs of waterfowl management. Waterfowl habitat has progressively disappeared as our modern civilization has placed more and more demands on our lands and our waters, and there is no slackening in the pace of this destruction.
>
> The States, with Pittman-Robertson funds, have accelerated waterfowl marsh restoration more than ever before in the history of the conservation movement. The Fish and Wildlife Service is spending every nickel it can get to acquire, restore and develop areas for the birds. Yet on all sides the demand for more intensive uses of lands and waters is complicating the overall picture to the point where it sometimes looks as though we are losing ground more rapidly than we are gaining it.

The vexing problem is the protection of existing wildlife habitat on privately owned lands. The great bulk of the waterfowl in normal years is produced in the marshes and ponds and potholes on the thousands of farms and ranches scattered throughout the breeding range. The permanent waters on State and Federal refuges and the larger lakes are exceedingly important in drouth years, as they are toward the end of normal seasons when smaller areas dry up and the birds move their flocks to the pools prepared for them. Many of them are exceedingly important nesting areas. But the privately owned land always have, and I hope always will, provide the bulk of the ducks and geese that make up the fall flight.

The drainage of privately owned marsh lands has been greatly encouraged and accelerated in recent years by the payment of subsidies for soil conservation and soil improvement practices under the provisions of the Production and Marketing Administration of the Department of Agriculture.

The drainage of some wet lands is beneficial to waterfowl, such as the small shallow areas that normally dry up in midsummer and become death traps for fledgling birds. But there are literally thousands of other sloughs and potholes throughout the vast expanse of the Prairie States, each of which produce or help produce from a scattered few to many broods each year. Many of these are bound to disappear permanently in this program unless some means can be found to keep them as they are now.

The problem is not by any means confined to the breeding range. It is important as well in the highly important wintering grounds of the Gulf Coast. Here also payments are made to convert wet lands into pastures. We have recently gone to considerable lengths to avoid having ditches dug outside the boundary line of our most important wintering refuges on the Gulf Coast. If constructed, this ditch would improve the pasture situation for four cattle men, but would also lead, in our opinion, to the destruction of thirty or forty thousand acres of excellent waterfowl marsh, purchased at a cost of many thousands of dollars of wildlife funds.



Burns Ditch Harbor Proposal. A promotional scheme to develop a harbor and industrial city at the mouth of Burns Ditch between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres succeeded in getting a recommendation by the District army engineers office in Chicago to the Washington office for a survey of this region. A hearing was set for October 15. After three postponements, this hearing was held on January 31.

Conservationists in northern Indiana and the Chicago region have been working during the past year to defeat this pork barrel scheme and to try to save the last remaining portion of the famous Indiana dunes not already occupied by private residences, industry, and the Indiana Dunes State Park. The area in question extends for about five miles along the south shore of Lake Michigan. It is much used by naturalists and for recreation.

The Indiana Dunes State Park, tho fine, is too small. It extends for about three and one half miles east of Dune Acres. It is a great pity that the entire region from Ogden Dunes to this park was not included in the park as a National Monument, at the time of the establishment of the Park. This would have had an extent of about twelve miles along the south shore of Lake Michigan.

5716 S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The above article is the first of a series proposed by Dr. R. M. Strong describing current events of the Society and some of the conservation problems in which we are all so vitally concerned. We hope by this means to give you a clearer picture of the work the Society is trying to do, and to notify you when action is needed to support programs involving protection of our birds, wild life, or natural resources.*

Professor C. W. G. Eifrig

By Dr. Alfred Lewy

Professor Charles William Gustave Eifrig, president of the Illinois Audubon Society, 1930-41, died November 1st, 1949, at Orlando, Florida, at the age of 78. He served as president of the Society with distinction, and following his retirement continued as an honorary director. A paragraph concerning his death was published in the *Bulletin*, Number 73 (March, 1950).

Dr. Eifrig was born in Doebeln, Germany, September 23, 1871. He lived to celebrate his golden wedding anniversary in 1945, and to have seven children and thirteen grandchildren. At the age of seven, he emigrated with his parents to Freedom, Pennsylvania, where he completed his elementary school training. He was graduated from Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1892, and from Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, with high honors in 1895. During the following fourteen years he was pastor of three congregations.

From his early boyhood, Dr. Eifrig was interested in natural history, and he became an enthusiastic ornithologist, publishing a number of articles on birds. He also wrote two elementary text-books which were published by Rand, McNally & Co. One of these (1928) was on mammals, the other (1930) on fishes, amphibia and reptilia.

Dr. Eifrig was called to the faculty of Concordia Teachers College at Addison, Illinois in 1909, transferring later with that institution to River Forest, Illinois, where he retired in 1942 after serving for 33 years as professor of science. The degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, was conferred on him by Valparaiso University in 1945. He did much to overcome the suspicion of science among the Lutherans, and his department at school became very popular. He influenced a great many young people in the love of nature, especially ornithology, and urged the conservation of our natural resources. As his pupils go out into the world, preaching the love of nature as well as their theological doctrines, we hope to see Dr. Eifrig's influence spread in ever-widening circles. Our lives are a little finer, and our world a little emptier, as a result of his passing.

2051 E. 72nd Place, Chicago

EDWARD R. FORD

We report with deep regret the death of an honorary director of the Illinois Audubon Society, Mr. Edward R. Ford, on January 13, 1951. The June number of the *Bulletin* will contain an obituary article which was not ready to go to press in time for this number.

Christmas Census — 1950

Reports of Christmas censuses have been published in the *Bulletin* since 1932, and we are happy to continue the practice. As usual, the reports are largely from the Chicago region. We hope to hear from larger portions of the state in years to come.

It would help in the work of preparing copy for the printers if writers would examine the form used in the *Bulletin* when preparing manuscript for these reports. This includes such points as arrangement in a paragraph, punctuation, capitalization, and order of names and numbers of individuals of a species observed. The manuscript should be typed double space.

When so many individuals of a species are seen that it is not feasible to count them, we suggest that a plus sign be used, e.g. 150+, the number being of course a conservative estimate. It should be interesting to read reports of other years and note changes in the bird population of Illinois and possibly determine the factors responsible for such changes.



Joliet, Will county, Illinois; within a 7½ mile radius centering on the west edge of town, including Pilcher Park Arboretum to the C.C.C. Camp on the "I. and M." Canal and open water of the Des Plaines and Du Page rivers; Dec. 31, 1950; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; partly cloudy; ground snow-covered; temperature 10° to 23°; wind NNE, 6 miles an hour; 55 party-hours (37 on foot, 18 by car); 226 party-miles (47 on foot, 179 by car). Great blue heron, 1; mallard, 36; black duck, 26; gadwall, 60; canvas-back, 28; lesser scaup, 79; American golden-eye, 32; ruddy duck, 11; American merganser, 12; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 1; rough-legged hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 6; herring gull, 19; ring-billed gull, 43; belted kingfisher, 3; flicker, 4; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 7; horned lark, 2; blue jay, 8; American crow, 63; black-capped chickadee, 17; tufted titmouse, 4; brown creeper, 3; eastern bluebird, 1; starling, 60; house sparrow, 160; eastern meadowlark, 4; cardinal, 6; slate-colored junco, 8; tree sparrow, 30; swamp sparrow, 1; total, 35 species, about 786 individuals. — Joliet Audubon Society, William L. Hughes, Mrs. E. Durbin Collins, Dr. G. N. Hufford, Dr. George Woodruff, Miss Helen McIntosh, Louis Englehardt, C. D. Stallman.



Joliet, Will county; Pilcher Park Arboretum and roads nearby; Dec. 30; 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.; snow on ground; southeast wind; temperature 22°; 20 miles (18 by auto, 2 on foot); observers together. Rough-legged hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 2; killdeer, 1; flicker, 1; downy woodpecker, 2; blue jay, 2; crow, 15; starling, 10; English sparrow, 8; cardinal, 3; red crossbill, 1; junco, 15; tree sparrow, 6; song sparrow, 2; total, 14 species, 69 individuals. — Karl E. Bartel, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Campbell, J. O. Young, and Miss Leona Draheim.

Lisle, DuPage county; 800 acres within Morton Arboretum; Dec. 16 (early for Christmas, but sent in for comparison); 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; partly cloudy; west wind; temperature 15°; six inches of snow on the ground; most of the birds seen around banding station. Ring-necked pheasant, 1; long-eared owl, 7; downy woodpecker, 3; blue jay, 2; crow, 30; black-capped chickadee, 11; robin, 1; golden-crowned kinglet, 1; English sparrow, 2; cardinal, 4; junco, 22; song sparrow, 2; total, 12 species, 86 individuals. — Karl E. Bartel.

Lisle, DuPage county; 800 acres within the Morton Arboretum; Dec. 17 (also early, but particularly interesting in comparison with preceding day's census in same area and time period); 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; clear; northwest wind; temperature rising from 5° in morning to 15° in afternoon; ground covered with snow; observers mostly together, using four autos; 15 miles (10 miles by auto, 5 on foot). Red-tailed hawk, 1; marsh hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 2; ring-necked pheasant, 7; mourning dove, 2; long-eared owl, 7; short-eared owl, 4; saw-whet owl, 1; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 6; blue jay, 3; crow, 65; black-capped chickadee, 7; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; red-breasted nuthatch, 1; brown creeper, 1; ruby-crowned kinglet, 4; cedar waxwing, 6; cardinal, 5; purple finch, 2; pine siskin, 50; goldfinch, 1; red crossbill, 30; slate-colored junco, 11; tree sparrow, 2; song sparrow, 1; total, 26 species, 223 individuals. — 20 members and friends of the Chicago Ornithological Society; Karl E. Bartel, Field Chairman.



Lisle, DuPage county; 800 acres within the Morton Arboretum; Dec. 31; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; cloudy; southwest wind; ground covered knee-deep with snow; temperature 20°; 21 observers mostly together, using seven autos; 15 miles (11 by car, 4 on foot). Sharp-shinned hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 2; red-shouldered hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 3; ring-necked pheasant, 4; herring gull, 30; screech owl (dead), 1; horned owl, 1; long-eared owl, 6; short-eared owl, 3; flicker, 2; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 4; prairie horned lark, 1; blue jay, 9; crow, 500; black-capped chickadee, 6; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; red-breasted nuthatch, 1; brown creeper, 2; catbird, 1; robin, 3; golden-crowned kinglet, 6; cedar waxwing, 59; starling, 11; English sparrow, 11; eastern meadowlark, 2; cardinal, 7; pine siskin, 16; goldfinch, 28; red crossbill, 42; slate-colored junco, 8; song sparrow, 3; total, 33 species, 778 individuals. — 21 members of the Chicago Ornithological Society.



LaGrange to Woodstock, Illinois; Jan. 1, 1951; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; mild and partly sunny; 110 miles; observations from car in morning. Sparrow hawk, 1; greater prairie chicken, 9; bob-white, 7; ring-necked pheasant, 1; herring gull, 6; horned lark, 25; eastern crow, 30; robin, 2; starling, 40; English sparrow, 40; total, 10 species, 161 individuals. — Esther A. Craigmile and Laura Vial.

Waukegan, Lake county; Waukegan harbor, woods and fields, open water at Public Service Plant; Jan. 1; 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; ground covered with snow, but lake open all along shore; cloudy; wind south at 10 miles per hour; temperature 30°; 11 observers together. Horned grebe, 1; pied-billed grebe, 1; mallard, 18; black duck, 6; canvas-back, 4; lesser scaup duck, 85; American golden-eye, 225; bufflehead, 3; old-squaw, 24; hooded merganser, 4; American merganser, 45; red-breasted merganser, 20; sparrow hawk, 2; ring-necked pheasant, 4; great black-backed gull, 1; herring gull, 350; ring-billed gull, 15; mourning dove, 1; crow, 11; starling, 200; English sparrow, 150; eastern meadowlark, 1; redwing blackbird, 2; Brewer's blackbird, 2; cardinal, 1; slate-colored junco, 2; song sparrow, 1; total, 27 species, 1188 individuals. — Karl E. Bartel, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Campbell, Miss Leona Draheim, O. C. Durham, Neil Henderson, Jack Moyer, Mrs. Stephenson, Ted Nork, J. O. Young and daughter, Bonny.

Blue Island, Cook county; in the vicinity of Oak Hill banding station and the fields to the south and west; Dec. 21 to Jan. 2 (listing largest number seen on any one day); ground covered with snow throughout census period; temperature range from -7° to 40°. Cooper's hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 3; herring gull, 225; screech owl, 2; red-headed woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 4; blue jay, 4; crow, 6; black-capped chickadee, 2; robin, 2; starling, 2000; English sparrow, 50; cardinal, 4; junco, 18; song sparrow, 1; total, 17 species, 2325 individuals. — Karl E. Bartel

Channahon, Will county; Morris, Grundy county; along the towpath of the I. and M. Canal from Channahon to Morris on both sides of the river from the DuPage river to point where the Kankakee and DuPage rivers merge to form the Illinois river; Dec. 30; 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; snow on the ground with canal frozen over, but river frozen only near Channahon; wind southeast; sun shining most of the time; temperature 22°; 72 miles (by auto, stopping only long enough for short walks). Ducks far out identified by use of the Chicago Ornithological Society's spotting scope of 20 and 40 power. Pied-billed grebe, 1; mallard, 9; black duck, 125; lesser scaup, 1; golden-eye, 285; red-breasted merganser, 6; sharp-shinned hawk, 2; red-tailed hawk, 3; red-shouldered hawk, 1; marsh hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 4; ring-necked pheasant, 12; herring gull, 10; mourning dove, 16; belted kingfisher, 2; flicker, 5; red-bellied woodpecker, 2; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 5; downy woodpecker, 11; prairie horned lark, 1; blue jay, 10; crow, 60; black-capped chickadee, 24; tufted titmouse, 4; brown creeper, 4; Carolina wren, 1; robin, 50; golden-crowned kinglet, 2; starling, 39; red-wing blackbird, 1; cowbird, 60; cardinal, 17; purple finch, 2; junco, 65; tree sparrow, 19; song sparrow, 13; total, 38 species, 904 individuals (plus estimated 200 ducks too far out for identification). — Karl E. Bartel, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Campbell, J. O. Young, Leona Draheim, and Mr. and Mrs. Menzner.

1950 Chicago Area Christmas Bird Count

Chicago, Ill. (15 mile diameter circle centering at Touhy and Lincoln Aves., Lincolnwood, Ill.; all lake front and Forest Preserve District in the area, Graceland, Rosehill, Calvary, and Memorial Park Cemeteries; deciduous river woods 34%, feeding stations 20%, lakefront and harbors 19%, open fields 6%, cemeteries 6%, city parks 5%, golf courses 3%, clay and gravel pits 3%, rivers and canals 2%, city streets 2%). — Dec. 30; 7 a.m. to dusk. Partly cloudy to overcast; temp. 10° to 23° F.; light variable winds; ground covered with 6 to 20 in. of snow; water 75% open. Twenty-five observers in 5 parties, and at 3 feeders. Total hours 50 (8 by car, 32 on foot, 10 at feeders); total miles 88 (44 by car, 44 on foot) — mallard, 62; black duck, 1; American golden-eye, 281; old squaw, 1811; hooded merganser, 1; American merganser, 172; red breasted merganser, 169; Cooper's hawk, 2; red-tailed hawk, 3; red-shouldered hawk, 6; sparrow hawk, 11; European partridge, 9; ring-necked pheasant, 182; herring gull, 4916 (3000± 250, 1916); ring-billed gull, 5; short-eared owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 2; flicker, 6; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 10; downy woodpecker, 49; blue jay, 11; American crow, 188; black-capped chickadee, 87; tufted titmouse, 15; white-breasted nuthatch, 11; brown creeper, 17; robin, 8; varied thrush, 1 (gray breast band, wing bars, eye stripe, and other marks noted, G.S. Bird observed at Sollitt feeder for two weeks previous to the count, seen by many reliable observers); golden-crowned kinglet, 4; starling, 652; house sparrow, 534; red-wing blackbird, 1; rusty blackbird, 1; cardinal, 48; purple finch, 3; American goldfinch, 89; slate-colored junco, 93; tree sparrow, 25; song sparrow, 7; snow bunting, 1. Total, 41 species; about 9496 individuals. (Seen in area during count week, red crossbill, 2; hermit thrush, 1; thrush seen near Sollitt feeder several times during the month. Mrs. R. L. M.). — Bill Baasel, Mrs. J. H. Buchanan, Mrs. Reba Campbell, Jerome J. Carroll, Mrs. H. Davids, Kenny Gilchrist, Joseph F. Healy (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. John Helmer, Mrs. Bertha Huxford, Don Johnson, Mrs. Paul Klopsteg, Harold Lenz, Norman Lerch, Dale McDowell, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Mannette, Ted Nork, Able Schwartz, Harry Smith, Mrs. George Sollitt, Mrs. Paul Stephenson, Mrs. Georgia Trumbell, Ed. Williams, Dick Zusi. (Chicago Ornithological Society, Evanston Bird Club).

Cook county Roadside Census: southwest of Blue Island, west to Orland Park, north to Lemont, east to Willow Springs, southeast to Worth, east to Blue Island; Dec. 25; 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; snowing all the way (visibility ¼ mile); all ground covered with snow; temperature 10°; 61 miles (observations from car except a ten minute walk at Orland Wildlife Preserve, which was frozen over). Birds counted whether heard or seen. Sharp-shinned hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 7; herring gull, 6; screech owl, 1; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 3; blue jay, 4; crow, 19; black-capped chickadee, 6; starling, 3; English sparrow, 11; eastern meadowlark, 1; cardinal, 4; slate-colored junco, 14; tree sparrow, 10; song sparrow, 7; total 17 species, 99 individuals. — Karl E. Bartel.

Palos Park, Cook county; vicinity of bird-banding and feeding stations of Dr. McQuarrie, Miss Alice Greenacre, Dr. Brassler, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Lord; Dec. 25, 1950; 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.; snowing hard and six inches of snow on ground; temperature 10°; strong northeast wind. Hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 11; blue jay, 1; black-capped chickadee, 18; tufted titmouse, 7; slate-colored junco, 37; tree sparrow, 1; crow, 6; hawk (?), 1; total, 9 species, 82 individuals. — Alfred H. Reuss.

Also from the Palos Park area feeding stations Mr. Reuss reports some unusual finds for comparison with those of the census: a Carolina wren seen for about a week during the middle of December; a redwing blackbird on December 15 and 19; and a male adult rusty blackbird on December 24, 1950.

Annual Tea at the Art Institute

By Janet H. Zimmermann

The Illinois Audubon Society held its annual tea on Sunday afternoon, January 28, at the Art Institute. Fifty members and guests attended, to become acquainted with one another and with the members of the Board of Directors.

Dr. R. M. Strong spoke at some length on the objectives of the Society. He stressed the efforts of the Board to plan an annual spring meeting, more down-state field trips, and other activities.

Mr. Harry Smith passed around questionnaires asking if members could give a certain amount of their time to clerical work of the organization, leading bird walks in the city parks during spring migration, contributing articles to the *Bulletin*, or serving on committees. It is hoped that a lively response to the questionnaire will result in a broadening of the Society's work and a more active participation of the general membership in that work.

What Is Your Membership Status?

In response to the last billing for membership dues, it was gratifying to see that several active members of the Society sent $5 and changed their classifications to contributing members. The next bills will be sent out soon; we ask that you remit early, as additional funds are needed to help us meet steadily increasing expenses. If you are now an active member and wish to become a contributing member, merely change the figures in your bill from $2 to $5 and make your remittance accordingly. Since the costs of newsprint and all other expenses have gone up considerably in the past year, we may soon be forced to raise the cost of active membership.

All members are urged to return the blank form enclosed with their bill, listing the name and address of one or more prospective members. Better yet, get a new member and enclose the remittance with your own.

Book Reviews

Natural Landscapes of the United States. By J. Francis Macbride, Curator of Peruvian Botany, Chicago Natural History Museum, 1950, 48 pp., 6 maps, 31 half tone illustrations. Published by the Museum. 30 cents plus 5 cents postage.

This is a travelogue which should be useful to both travelers and students interested in the flora of the United States. Three types of landscapes are recognized: namely, woods, grassland, and desert. Variations in these and their distribution are described with the aid of maps and half tone illustrations.

Maps show virgin forests (1620) and present forest areas. National forests and the National Park System are also shown in maps. Geographical types of coniferous and deciduous forests are recognized with distribution of species. Grass lands and deserts are also thus treated.

Dr. R. M. Strong, Chicago

Where to Find Birds in Minnesota. Compiled by Kenneth D. Morrison and Josephine Daneman Herz, 1950. Itasca Press-Webb Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minn. $1.50.

This 122-page, handy-sized volume sponsored by the National Audubon Society could well serve as a model for similar work by local groups to cover every geographical area in the country. It is sub-titled "A guide to 62 birding areas, parks, sanctuaries," and is just that — a guide which takes you by the hand and leads you down the gravel roads, the trails, past the carefully described landmarks to where the big list enthusiast of the area runs up his total. Each section is written by a field identification expert who knows the particular area best. Some — Jaques, Breckenridge, Pettingill — are nationally known ornithologists with whom Minnesota is so richly endowed; others are managers of refuges or parks, but most contributions are by the most active birder of a given area, the expert who helps the experts build up their lists.

The book is illustrated with numerous black and white drawings by Roger Tory Peterson, a map of the state, and four regional maps locating the cities or towns from which the motor route to each area starts.

The uniform method of presentation is in this order: Starting point; name of area; specific road directions; description of terrain; vantage points from which area may best be seen; groups of birds likely to be found; species nesting, permanent residents, or regularly found; less usual records for the area; restrictions, if any, as to entering or conduct in the area; hazards, such as rough roads or unfriendly bulls; general comments on best time of year, history, and other wildlife to be seen. Each section is signed by the contributor.

The book is carefully indexed and includes also a list of the local Audubon Societies in Minnesota. The editors thoughtfully provided several blank pages at the end for records of observations or notes on your personal experiences while birding in the state.

John R. Bayless, 6139 Kenwood Ave., Chicago 37

Who Dat up Dere?

By Erma Deane Pilz

The old Jamestown church tower, until recently thought to be the only remaining structural evidence of the first permanent English colony in the New World, is well worth the pilgrimage by a tourist in the Virginia tidewater area. I visited the building primarily because of its historical significance, and accidentally learned of an ornithological tale that was more amusing than the Pocahontas-John Smith story, though hardly as epochal.

It was while our Negro guide was giving his usual talk as he conducted a group of tourists through the church and adjoining graveyard that I looked up to observe that a considerable part of the ancient vines had been cut away from the ruins of the once ivy-covered church tower. The guide casually remarked that this had been done to preserve the remaining bricks and mortar. A question or two, after the group had left, brought the information that since the bricks had been made on the site and baked much harder than modern bricks, and the lime, burned from the oyster shells of the inlet, had hardened the mortar through the years to something far less destructible than the cement work added later, the English ivy had at no time been a threat to the preservation of the tower. But, the guide explained, the ivy tangle on the crest of the ruins had become a roosting-place for a family of barn owls, and when the tourists reached the tower and the solemn Negro pointed dramatically up to the often-defended gun slits, this, in the words of the guide, is what took place:

"Dey looks up. Dem li'l ole monkey-face owl look down. Dey stare at each othah, and *nobody* hears what Ah got to say!"

So the barn owls were graduated from their "halls of ivy" by the demolition of their traditional dormitory. I can only hope that the owls, being such wise birds, have flown on to more hospitable institutions in pursuit of their higher learning.

10321 Prospect Ave., Chicago

Screen Tours to Come

The last two lectures of the 1950-51 series of Audubon Screen Tours will be presented by two favorite story-tellers, well known to previous audiences of the Society:

Sunday, March 18, at 2:30 p.m.: Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Minnesota ornithologist and nature writer, portrays the unique character of the wild life and landscape of that seldom-visited region, the interior of the Black Hills of the Dakotas.

Wednesday, April 18, at 8:00 p.m.: Bert Harwell, popular lecturer, takes us on a tour of wilderness and mountain areas in the Canadian National Parks. Here we find the last remnants of bird and animal species that were once common, but are now rare or even unknown in the United States.

All members and friends of the Society are invited to come again to James Simpson Theater of the Chicago Natural History Museum.

Audubon Screen Tours in Review

THE 1950-51 SERIES of motion pictures and lectures sponsored by the Society has had an enthusiastic reception. In spite of the severest winter weather in many years, with deep snows and frequent sessions of below zero temperatures, large audiences have turned out to enjoy the three programs presented thus far. To permit those members who heard the lectures to relive them here briefly, and to describe the motion pictures to others who could not attend, we present this brief summary:

Wildlife Down East (November 27, 1950) — Carl W. Buchheister, vice-president of the National Audubon Society, presented a travelog of the plant and animal life of the Eastern seaboard. The lobstermen with their traps, the ocean-going birds and the tidal flats, were novel scenes to many of us Midwesterners. There were pictures of marine animals — starfish and sea anemones — going about their aquatic business. Several Audubon nature camps were portrayed. Mr. Buchheister outlined the conservation projects the Audubon Societies are sponsoring, and urged all of us to support these worth-while movements.

Saguaroland (January 13, 1951) — Karl Maslowski unreeled a story of Western adventure, of sagebrush and canyons, cactuses and desert. He revealed some of his methods of establishing blinds for nature photography. The most amusing sequence was the story of the persistent chipmunk and the uncooperative hard-boiled egg. After four days of struggling, rolling and scratching, the chipmunk retired briefly to rest, then returned to find a thrush pecking a hole in the shell! With a bold rush, the chipmunk drove off the startled bird, retrieved the punctured egg, and scurried away to enjoy his long-delayed feast. . . Mr. Maslowski varied his glimpses of unusual desert wildlife with views of Arizona National Parks and Monuments. He closed with an appealing portrait of a sleepy owl winking goodnight from his burrow in a towering saguaro cactus.

This Curious World in Nature (February 10) — William Ferguson depicted the changes in landscape and living creatures in a brief summer high in the Colorado Rockies. Mule deer visited in his back yard, friendly chickadees perched on his daughter's hand, and birds built their nests and raised their young. Marmots, beavers, porcupines and chipmunks scurried busily across the screen. The destructiveness of man was portrayed in views of a forest fire and its black aftermath. The most vivid scenes were those of autumn — of trembling gold and orange aspens against a deep blue, mountain-bordered sky.

4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago

Future Articles in the "Bulletin"

Two interesting stories are scheduled to appear in the next number of the *Audubon Bulletin*. First is a description of some of the wild life refuges in Southeastern United States, including a bird-watcher's visit to the relatively new Everglades National Park. There will also be a report on the discovery of a nesting colony of American egrets in Illinois.

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS.....$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS$25.00
LIFE MEMBERS$100.00

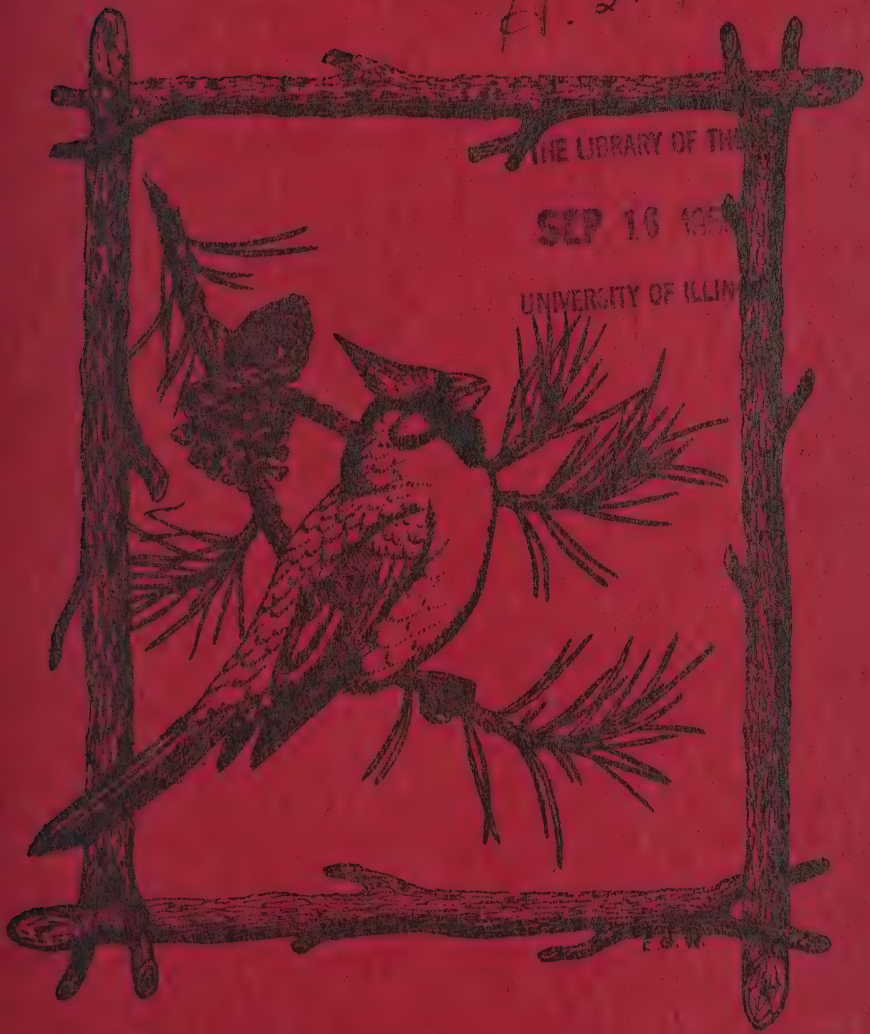
Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

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Number 78 *June, 1951*

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ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(Organized in 1897)

For the Protection of Wild Birds

Chicago Natural History Museum
Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive
Chicago 5, Illinois
Telephone WAbash 2-9410

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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

Published Quarterly by the

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Number 78 *June, 1951*

The President's Column

By Dr. R. M. Strong

The effectiveness of the Illinois Audubon Society would be increased if the officers and directors could know the membership-at-large better. The three annual teas we have had recently helped in getting acquainted, but less than a quarter of the members attended the teas, and time for conversation was limited. We could not get acquainted with all of the members present whom we did not know nor could we meet new guests.

Increasing costs of printing have made it impossible, during the past few years, to avoid a small annual deficit which so far has been met by a reserve balance that is nearly exhausted. This deficit would be larger if it were not for a generous arrangement which we have with the Chicago Natural History Museum for our lectures and board meetings. The annual cost of the lectures and the *Audubon Bulletin* is now $3.50 per member, and most members pay the minimum fee of $2.00 only. We could not carry on if we did not have some income from endowment.

During the past year, a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Anna D. Holmquist added several thousand dollars to our endowment. The finance committee has taken several months to invest this money wisely, a difficult undertaking in these times. The additional income will reduce, but not abolish our deficit. This is a problem for careful consideration by the Society.

The activities of the Society, outside of the Chicago region, are limited. Efforts to expand our program have been considered, but the problem is a difficult one. Down-state field trips and meetings have been held for this purpose in past years. If we had the money, we would try to hire a field agent to make contacts through the state and try to get new members. He could also stimulate conservation work. Mr. Decker in his history of the Society in the March number of the *Bulletin* said that Mr. Henry Oldys was engaged in the fall of 1913 for a four weeks' tour of the state when he spoke before many audiences. He made a similar trip in the following spring. I do not know how this was financed, nor how successful it was.

We have used various methods for getting information concerning bird or nature clubs in the state outside of the Chicago area. So far, we have not heard of many, and we do not know how complete our information is. A minority of the members of the Illinois Audubon Society live outside of what may be termed the Chicago region, i.e., fifty or more miles from Chicago. We wish there were more, and we invite suggestions about how to get them. Your letters should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Mr. Harry R. Smith, First National Bank, Chicago.

(*Continued on next page*)

Conservation News and Notes

Bald Eagle Bill. A new bill to extend protection of the bald eagle in Alaska (H.R. 1870) was introduced in this session of the U.S. Congress by Representative Homer Angell of Oregon. As pointed out in the March *Bulletin,* Alaska is the only U.S. territory that does not have protection for this fine bird, and there is danger of its extinction. *Letters should be sent to your congressmen urging action on this bill. For information on how to address your letters, see note at end of this article.*



Burns Ditch Harbor Proposal. In the March number of the *Bulletin* we mentioned a hearing held January 31 by the Bureau of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors on the recommendation of the District Engineers that a survey be made of the region involved in the promotional scheme to have federal construction of a deep water harbor at the mouth of Burns Ditch, Indiana. That hearing was attended by a number of aggressive supporters of the scheme, and only two persons are reported to have been present to speak against it, tho many letters had been mailed to the Bureau in opposition. Conservationists lost this battle, as the survey was approved.

In spite of the well-known fact that the army engineers are eager for large engineering jobs, this proposition was so weak that the District Engineers had repeatedly turned down proposals for this harbor scheme for over twenty years. This time, the promoters had more politicians supporting them. They even had the governor of Indiana in their camp.

Of course the decision is only for a survey which, if favorable, would still have to be approved by the U.S. Congress. The survey has the advantage to the army engineers of a fat appropriation for that greedy bureau. I have been informed that one of the district engineers in conservation during the past year said that the proposal for a harbor at Burns Ditch was unsound, but the army engineers have a large force of employees to keep busy, and they take any jobs they can get, no matter how unwise they may be from the standpoint of public welfare.

Even tho we should defeat the promoters and the army engineers in the present fight, sooner or later, as the Chicago region grows, we shall lose this beautiful scenic region between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres unless something constructive is done. We must help the Indiana Dunes Preservation Council in its efforts to get a permanent park for the five mile stretch of dunes country between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres. This means a good deal more than sympathetic listening to talks on the subject.

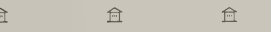
Many residents of the dunes region think of the area as a sand waste and are much more interested in dollars. Chicago people have more at stake from the standpoint of preserving important recreational facilities and scenic beauty than the owners of most of the land, who do not even live in the adjacent region. We also have more to lose than the owners of road houses or small businessmen who think they would gain trade by the development of an industrial city in this area.

Condor Protection. The prospects for survival of the California condor have been greatly improved by an order signed by the Secretary of the Interior, Oscar L. Chapman, withdrawing from entry under the mining laws, the larger portion of the region where this rare bird now breeds. The area comprises approximately 35,200 acres or 55 sections. The condor refuge created also involves 37 additional sections where gas and oil leases may be granted with the stipulation that no entry may be made on the surface of any land within half a mile of any condor nest known to have been active within three years.

As reported this past summer, there are only about 60 California condors left, and they live in a small portion of the Los Pedros National Forest in Ventura County, California, roughly about 100 miles north of Los Angeles. Nesting birds lay only one egg, and that only once in two or three years. The National Audubon Society, the University of California, and the U.S. Forest Service have been trying for more than ten years to provide protection for the condor. The holders of oil leases have refused to sign an agreement. There was an interesting story in the April 7 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* about the history of efforts to establish this refuge.

The order does not affect valid existing rights, and consequently the full effectiveness of the order will not be realized until the last of these leases has expired. The prospects of finding gas or oil in paying quantities in this region are said to be so poor that it is unlikely that the present holders of leases will cause much trouble.

The National Audubon Society and the U S. Forest Service have agreed to share the cost of providing a special warden. More details about the negotiations appeared in the March-April number of the *Audubon Magazine.*



Resignation of Mr. Drury. Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced on February 6 the resignation of Newton B. Drury as Director of the National Parks Service. This was done with no word of appreciation of the fine public service of this able and conscientious administrator for eleven years. The resignation was requested.

When Horace Allbright resigned as Director of the National Parks Service, the then Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, on the unanimous advice of the Advisory Board for the National Parks Service, asked Mr. Drury to take this position. He declined because he felt under obligation to continue his work as secretary of the Save the Redwoods League. Later when the position again became vacant, he was urged again to take it, and accepted.

During the war years, when the Department of the Interior had its offices in Chicago, I had the good fortune to get very well acquainted with Mr. Drury, and developed a deep affection and admiration for him. Consequently, I was surprised, indignant, and depressed when news of this affair came to me (but not from him) during the winter from time to time.

Conservationists have been unanimous in their criticism of the persons responsible for this regrettable action. It was reported to me that "Washington papers were full of it" for several weeks, also that there was talk

of a congressional investigation. Mr. Drury is said to have been reticent and dignified throughout the entire storm, and he has returned to his beloved California. Without his knowledge, the situation was taken to President Truman, who was obdurate.

According to an editorial in the April number of *Nature Magazine*, it appears that "the policy of the Department of the Interior is weighted on the side of exploitation and development." This affair and some other incidents are responsible for the feeling of pessimism that pervaded the North American Wildlife Conference in Milwaukee, March 5-7. I talked with a number of conservationists on this subject, including several from Washington. No explanation by the Secretary of the Interior for this resignation has come to my attention.



Cement plant threatens waterfowl refuge. The great Sabine Lake Waterfowl Refuge in Louisiana is threatened by efforts of a cement company to get a permit to remove a large oyster shell deposit on the north central edge of this area. This refuge has 142,749 acres within its boundaries, and is the largest winter refuge in the south for waterfowl. It is used by a million or more ducks and geese each year.

The oyster shell deposit covers about 2500 acres along the shore of Calcasieu Lake, and varies in depth from about 50 to 70 feet. It is 10 to 20 feet under the ground. Some of the refuges were bought subject to mineral and oil rights. An oil company exploring this refuge found no oil, but did discover the oyster shell deposit. It is estimated that there are about a hundred million cubic yards of shell. Several attempts have been made during the past three or four years to obtain leases for digging. The Fish and Wildlife Service has not accepted any of these offers, because to dig a hole 70 to 90 feet deep, and 2500 acres in extent, would not only ruin the wintering ground for ducks and geese, but would destroy the muskrat population which produces from $50,000 to $100,000 in fur annually. An application made about a year ago was denied by Secretary of the Interior Chapman, and it was thought this was the end of such applications. However, one especially aggressive Baltimore company has claimed that it needs these shells to make soda ash for a war contract with an aluminum company. A resurvey was consequently authorized. The results of this survey are not known as yet.

"Each One, Teach One"

The Mexican government virtually ended illiteracy in that country by requiring every literate person to teach at least one uneducated person to read and write during the year. Similarly, every member of the Society has an opportunity to spread the knowledge of birds and conservation this spring. Now is the time — at the height of the migration season, when bird study is keenest. Take a copy of the *Audubon Bulletin* with you on bird walks; show it to your friends when you pause to check your field cards. The Society needs new members; current dues are barely enough to meet printing expenses. If you sincerely believe in bird protection, do the least you can — bring in one new member. To help the Society continue its significant work, "each one must teach one."

Illinois Congressmen. In response to requests for the names of members of Congress from Illinois, we print the list given below. We also give information about the addresses of congressmen and the form to be used.

For Representatives:	*For Senators*:
Hon.	Hon.
House Office Building	Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.

SENATORS

Dirksen, Everett M. — Pekin, Illinois — Republican
Douglas, Paul H. — Chicago, Illinois — Democrat

REPRESENTATIVES

	Dist.		Dist.
Allen, Leo E., Galena.....	16	Mack, Peter F., Jr., Carlinville.	21
Arends, Leslie C., Melvin.....	17	Mason, Noah M., Oglesby.....	15
Bishop, C. W., Carterville.....	26	O'Brien, Thomas J., Chicago...	6
Busbey, Fred E., Chicago.....	3	Price, Melvin, East St. Louis...	25
Chiperfield, Robert B., Canton..	19	Reed, Chauncey W., W. Chicago	14
Church, Marguerite S., Evanston	13	Sabath, Adolph J., Chicago.....	7
Dawson, William L., Chicago...	1	Sheehan, Timothy P., Chicago..	11
Gordon, Thomas S., Chicago....	8	Simpson, Sid., Carrollton.....	20
Hoffman, Richard W., Berwyn..	10	Springer, Wm. L., Champaign..	22
Jenison, Edward H., Paris.....	23	Vail, Richard B., Chicago.....	2
Jonas, Edgar A., Chicago.....	12	Velde, Harold H., Pekin.....	18
Kluczynski, John C., Chicago...	5	Vursell, Charles W., Salem.....	24
McVey, William E., Harvey....	4	Yates, Sidney R., Chicago.....	9

5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago

Rare Migrants in the Chicago Region

By CHARLES W. KOSSACK

WHITE PELICANS (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*): On October 15, 1950, at 6:05 p.m., and again on October 16, 1950, at 5:30 p.m., three white pelicans were observed in the shallow waters of Baker Lake, Barrington, Illinois, Cook County, by the writer.

Pelicans are rare in this part of the Mississippi flyway. They previously were reported at McGinnis Slough Forest Preserve, Orland Park, Illinois in 1946 (Mann, 1946); Porter County, Indiana, October 23, 1921 (Sanborn, 1922); Lake County, Illinois, spring 1906 (Coale, 1912); and in Chicage, Illinois, April, 1903 (Woodruff, 1907). A local newspaper carried a report that the birds were also observed on another lake near Barrington, Illinois, for a short period on October 16, 1950.

RICHARDSON'S GOOSE (*Branta canadensis hutchinsi*): On October 15, 1950, at 5:30 p.m., a small flock of 16 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) accompanied by 4 Richardson's geese alighted on Baker Lake, Barrington, Illinois, and were under constant observation until no longer identifiable due to nightfall. Richardson's geese are rarely observed in this vicinity, the last recorded observation being made in 1945.

715 South Division Street, Barrington, Illinois

Nesting Colony of the Egret in Illinois

By James Hodges

Readers of the *Bulletin* will be interested to know that a colony of the American egret has nested for several years now in Rock Island County, Illinois. This paper brings up to date the observations of the colony through the season of 1950.

On June 19, 1949, the author, accompanied by Richard Schaefer, began a search for the nests of the American egret which had been reported constantly by commercial fishermen on the Mississippi river. A nesting colony was suspected in 1948 because a few birds were observed during that summer; an increase in the number of summer birds in 1949 was indication enough that they were nesting in the vicinity. We found the colony on the afternoon of June 19th.

The exact location of the colony is in a forest preserve of virgin timber at the very mouth of the Rock river. It is understood that this is an undeveloped city park, but at the present time the colony is almost unapproachable by land.

The first thing that was noticed on entering the nesting grounds was that the ground was white-washed by the droppings of the birds with the addition of egg shells and molted feathers, including some of the head plumes. One nestling egret was found dead on the ground, evidently killed by the fall from the nest.

However, the American egrets were not the only residents of this colony, as the black-crowned night heron, great blue heron, and several pairs of green heron were nesting also. The nests of the black-crowned night heron were closer to the river, while those of the American egret and great blue heron were more in the center of the colony. A number of the fledgling birds that had left the nest had unfortunately entangled their long necks in the crotches of the trees; being unable to remove themselves from this position, they soon died.

During July, the Credit Island harbor in Scott County, Iowa, just opposite the nesting site, was always full of these birds, indicating that the majority had left the nest. By July 16th I found evidence that the adult birds were starting to molt, and by July 23rd very little activity could be seen at the nesting site. By August 3rd the colony was deserted and migrants were starting to pass through in large numbers. The last American egrets were observed on October 22nd, a group of six.

On November 27, 1949, I returned to the colony to make a study of the nests, as the foliage of the trees had made an exact count difficult before. In an area of a square city block, 45 trees contained a total of 97 nests, the maximum nests in one tree being twelve. There were also about twenty more trees in one group with interwoven branches which contained about 60 nests and another such group containing 40 nests. This makes about 197

nests in the colony. Judging by nest size, I estimated that 75% were those of the black-crowned night heron, while the others were divided between the American egret and great blue heron. The nests were between 50 and 75 feet from the ground. However, it cannot be assumed that all of these nests were constructed during 1949, as the black-crowned night herons have been nesting there for at least two years. Most of the nests of the American egret appeard to be from the 1949 season.

On July 9th, 1950, I again visited the colony and found the nesting season to be at its peak. The black-crowned night heron predominated, with a definite decrease in the American egret and great blue heron, although this was anticipated because of a poor spring migration of both species. I found ten of the black-crowned herons dead on the ground, having fallen from the nest. They were well-feathered and would have left the nest in a few days. However, one of these birds was only a few days old. I also found several eggs on the ground that contained embryos, and an adult egret that had been shot and killed. I was able to collect over 200 egret head plumes.

While I was in the area a black-crowned night heron that would have been flying in a couple of days, fell 60 feet from its nest. As soon as it hit the ground I ran over and picked it up. It seemed dead; I could touch the eye and it would not even respond by moving the membrane. The legs were drawn up to the body. I moved the bird around a great deal to take pictures; in a period of ten minutes, the eyes looked more alive and the membrane worked constantly. In ten more minutes the bird cried out at intervals and began to resent my presence. Fifteen minutes later it had recovered enough so that it was able to walk. Approaching darkness caused me to leave, so my data on the incident is incomplete.

The only other recorded nesting colony of the American egret was in the bottom lands of the Mississippi river in 1942 in Jackson County, Iowa, about seventy miles up river from the present site. However, these birds did not return the following year. Perhaps a few pairs still nest in more favorable areas to the south, in the Mississippi valley, but nevertheless, this is the second reported nesting colony in this vicinity. If any readers desire to visit the area for observations or photography, they should communicate with me. The first week of July is the best time to observe the nesting colony.

324 W. 31st Street, Davenport, Iowa

EDITOR'S NOTE: *In accordance with the author's suggestion, the Society is considering an unofficial field trip to Rock Island, Illinois, probably in the week-end of July* 9-10, *to observe the nesting colony. Mr. Hodges, in a recent letter, states that he will be happy to guide our group to the site if the spring floods have not made access impossible. The final decision to make the trip will be made the third week in June. Members who wish to attend are requested to write to the Editor or Mr. Hodges.*

Our Southern Wildlife Refuges

By Dr. Alfred Lewy

Our party of wintering migrant bird-lovers consisted of Dr. Leonard B. Nice, Mrs. (Margaret Morse) Nice, Mrs. Lewy and myself. We left Chicago on February 19, 1950, in winter's icy grip, with snow drifts all about, the roads glazed over by a recent freezing sleet. For about 100 miles the car was piloted cautiously over the slippery roads. At Attica, Indiana, the Wabash was in flood, but the main road (41) was passable by driving through a few inches of water, and it was about here that we left the icy roads behind. Numerous roadside bird and vegetation observations were made on the way, but these will be left to another article, and this one devoted to the wildlife refuges visited.

Thanks to Mr. Philip Dumont of the Wildlife Service we were shown every courtesy in the various southern refuges. We arrived at Waycross, Ga. on February 22. William R. Edwards met us at 8 the next morning and piloted us to the Okefenokee Swamp, where we saw Mr. Frederick Hebard, whose family at one time had owned part of the swamp. He, Mr. Edwards and two of the rangers took us through the waterways, 22 miles of them, and a number of the remote lagoons that are not commonly visited by the public. The most conspicuous water plant was the golden club or neverwet (*Orontium aquatica*), whose leaves shed water like an oilskin, and whose ivory, red and gold spathes project above the water in large groups.

The white bay, myrtle "titi," blackberries, Juneberries and some white lilies were in bloom, and we recognized some old friends, the cinnamon fern, royal fern, pickerelweed, and leatherwood, and tried to distinguish the long leaf from the slash pine. We had seen the cabbage palmetto on the way, wistaria in bloom and "scrub oaks" on the ridges. The day was quite cool for us, cooler than Tennessee. The alligators, a number of which we saw, help to keep the swamp open. When not sunning themselves or swimming about they retire to their holes under the banks.

Our bird list follows: Ward's blue heron; several American egrets; a bittern; a number of king rails; 10 Florida cranes; 23 turkey vultures; several red-shouldered hawks; 1 broad-winged hawk; 1 Cooper's hawk; 1 osprey; 13 mallards; 23 wood ducks; 2 pileated woodpeckers; 1 red-bellied woodpecker; 10 purple martins; 2 tree swallows; phoebe; ruby-crowned kinglet; 2 Carolina wrens; hermit thrush; many myrtle warblers; 6 robins; several kingfishers; towhee; 2 cardinals; and uncounted anhingas or water-turkeys, which flew ahead of us along the waterways. A pair of barred owls called to each other and finally sat together in a tree. The hawk which I identified as a broad-wing was in immature plumage, with which I am quite familiar. We obtained no definite statement regarding the rumored presence of the ivory-billed woodpecker in the swamp. Some remote parts are seldom reached even by rangers.

After leaving Okefenokee for our next objective, Melbourne and Merritt's Island, we stopped on the way at Orange Park to visit the laboratory of primate biology, a center of medical and psychological research, where in addition to being shown the important work of the institution, we were highly entertained by the baby chimpanzees, whose ardent curiosity regarding the visitors was strikingly human.

We reached Homestead late in the night of March 1, and met Mr. Jack Watson, assistant manager of the Florida Bay Wildlife Refuge (now merged with the Everglades National Park) at 9:00 a.m. at Combs' Dock in Tavernier, Key Largo. The day was bright and sunshiny, and Mr. Watson took us around the principal breeding islands of the spoonbills, egrets, and various herons, including the great white, of which there are estimated to be 1600 in the refuge. First I must mention our great good fortune of finding the first flamingo authentically reported in the refuge since 1935, luckily spotted by Mr. Watson himself when it was only a pink blob on the waterscape. For years he had been hoping to find one or a pair without success, even scouting the refuge frequently by plane, in the hope of proving that they can successfully be transplanted there. After enjoying a close-up, we motored over to the Audubon cruise boat to tell others about the *rara avis*, meeting on the way two of the Everglades park rangers out in a small motor boat, who made so long an observation of the bird at close range that we beat them back to headquarters at Homestead with the news.

Most of the birds were seen in large numbers. We were greeted at the dock by a singing prairie warbler. Out over the water were cormorants, laughing gulls, herring gulls, (both of which nest there) brown pelicans, and in the shallow water, great white herons, Ward's heron, American egrets, reddish egrets, little blue herons, yellow-crowned night herons, and near the breeding island, roseate spoonbills; several bald eagles and ospreys in the air, and a number of each at nests. It was observed that the perching eagle sits vertically upright, the osprey at an angle. As there were no tall trees, the nests were low. It was estimated that there were 250 osprey nests in the area. Mr. Watson told us there were 200 black skimmers there the day before, but we saw only a few that day. Blue-winged teal and red-breasted mergansers were the only ducks seen, but our eyes were so busy that we undoubtedly overlooked many others. While returning to Homestead we saw from the car window 2 kingfishers, 2 marsh hawks, red-shouldered hawk, 3 vultures, coots, ospreys, 3 sparrow hawks, blue-gray gnatcatcher, palm warbler, 2 scaup ducks, 3 loggerhead shrike, and one crow.

March 2 marked our visit to Everglades National Park, where we were met by Mr. William Dilley, Park Naturalist, who introduced us to the tropical vegetation so new to us. Interesting was the strangler fig, the seed of which, dropped into a tree crotch, throws out aerial roots which strike downward along the trunk of the host to the ground, eventually strangling the host. One live oak nearly a foot in diameter, like Sinbad the sailor, was carrying such an "old man of the sea." Many of the trees were literally covered with orchids and bromeliads. The prevailing pine was the Caribbean, which can hardly be distinguished from the long leaf of Georgia. The shrubs were mostly unfamiliar, such as the coral bean with its bright red fruit, the satin tree with golden satin beneath the leaves, the mastic, a great tree with wavy leaves and the gumbo limbo with copper-colored bark. Known to us were most of the ferns, button bush, spice bush, *Eupatorium Utricularia*, and pickerel weed.

Our reception committee at the park entrance was a small flock of wood ibises, feeding alongside the road with stork-like dignity. We soon saw

many American egrets, turkey and black vultures, boat-tailed grackles, crows, ground doves and a bald eagle. Near the first ranger station a catwalk extends into a marsh pool to an observation point. There an 11-foot alligator sunned himself; wood and white ibises passed overhead, also great blue herons, black-crowned night herons, Louisiana and little blue herons. In the pool, the coots were paired and apparently defending territory. There were pied-billed grebes, Florida gallinules, and purple gallinules.

Other birds seen around the station were: cormorants, pelicans, Florida red-shouldered hawk, sparrow hawk, anhingas, osprey, ring neck ducks, Florida ducks, pintails, scaups, laughing gulls, crow, loggerhead shrike, meadow lark, redwing blackbird, tree swallow, kingfisher, mockingbird, goldfinch, and myrtle warbler. After lunch, we drove down a little dirt road leading to a fisherman's resort near Paradise key in Florida Bay. On the way we saw many trees killed by the hurricane. Out on the barely submerged flats were great white herons, reddish egrets, great blue herons, skimmers, black-bellied plover and innumerable smaller shore birds, thought to be largely turnstones. Laughing and ring-billed gulls flew near us, and some Caspian terns. Myrtle warblers feeding on the dock came up to our feet. Returning, we followed a wild cat who trotted calmly ahead of us for a quarter of a mile, and finally jumped over a narrow place in one of the ditches that bordered the road. We were told that panthers were also in the park. Again, on the way out, three wood ibises were in the road to say good-by to us.

We returned slowly north through the center of Florida, visiting Miami Beach, the north shore of Lake Okeechobee, and Highlands State Park, a fascinating swampy woods of native trees and shrubs, alligators and frogs, probably representing a bit of primeval Florida. We went through the orange country, visiting Bok Tower, and the next day to Gainesville, where we spent an enjoyable time with Pierce Brodkorb at the University. On March 6 we arrived at Waukulla Springs, an ornithologists' paradise. We spent two days there, one of which was largely devoted to a visit to St. Mark's refuge, on the gulf. On the road were three black vultures eating an oppossum. I wondered why these birds don't seem to have enough intelligence to drag their meal off the road to avoid the traffic. On this and a previous trip I saw a number of dead vultures, both black and turkey, which had been hit by autos. The superintendent, Mr. Paul T. Kreager, greeted us cordially and immediately got out the service truck to drive us over the dikes that serve both as roads and as retaining walls to control the water distribution into ponds. Shore birds were abundant: Hudsonian curlew, yellow legs, turnstones covering the roof of a boat house completely with their numbers; willets, killdeer, little blue herons, great blue herons, Louisiana herons, and egrets. Of the ducks, we saw scaups, blue-winged teal, canvasbacks, redheads, black mallards, pintails, shovelers, 80 green-winged teal, and Canada geese. Also 8 bald eagles, 4 adults at the nests and one young; osprey, several vultures; pelicans, a loon, and cormorants. Our smaller land bird list consisted of flicker, blue jay, purple martins, loggerhead, shrikes, red-winged blackbird, meadow larks, mockingbird, Carolina wren, and savannah sparrow. We also saw our largest alligator of the trip, 14 feet of monster.

2051 East 72nd Place, Chicago

1951 Exhibition of Nature Photography

WE ARE HAPPY to print below a prize-winning photograph from the Sixth Chicago International Exhibition of Nature Photography. This competition, sponsored by the Nature Camera Club of Chicago, consisted of color slides and both colored and black and white prints of nature subjects. The objective of the competition was "to make the photographer a better naturalist; the naturalist, a better photographer."

The accepted photographs, selected from over 2800 pictures by a panel of six outstanding photographers and naturalists, were used to create a print display in the main hall of the Chicago Natural History Museum during the month of February, and a slide showing which was held in James Simpson Theater on two Sunday afternoons. Mr. Eliot Porter of Santa Fe, New Mexico, submitted four prints and won three honorable mentions and one medal award, an exceptional achievement in a major competition. His portrait of nestling barn swallows appears with the permission of Mr. H. J. Johnson, chairman of the exhibition committee of the Nature Camera Club.



BARN SWALLOW *By Eliot Porter*

Save the Prairies

By Constance Nice

When the pioneers came to Illinois a hundred years ago, they gazed with awe upon the vast expanses of sun-drenched prairie reaching the horizon. Tall blue stem grass grew higher than a man's head. From early spring to late fall the prairie was a scene of ever-changing glory. Illinois was formerly known as the Prairie State. Now its prairies have become so rare, that most of its inhabitants have probably never seen one, and would be unable to recognize it if they did. Virgin prairie is less striking to the untrained eye than woodland, and more easily destroyed. The intricate society of grasses and flowers which over millions of years produced the rich prairie soil can be eradicated in an afternoon's plowing.

As we leave the Lake Michigan area, virgin country, except for a few patches along the railroads and in a few estates, almost vanishes. We are fortunate in this region that some fairly large tracts have been preserved for possible industrial or real estate use. New houses are starting to spring up on some of these open spaces like mushrooms in the night.

For a sample of the natural flower garden the pioneers found, let us visit a virgin prairie in late May. It is covered with masses of pale blue quamash — a close relative of the lily, whose bulb sustained Lewis and Clark's expedition — shoals of false Solomon's seal, brilliant yellow puccoon, and an abundance of pale yellow, fern-leaved betony. Here and there are yellow star grass, always a sign of unbroken prairie, like the few plants of creamy wild indigo, so large and vigorous they seem like small shrubs, and — loveliest of all — shooting stars.

In early June, prairie phlox dyes the ground pink, while showy vetchling covers large patches with its vigorous, tendril-tipped leaves and clusters of deep pink sweet peas. The fragile blue of spiderwort is scattered among the gold of golden ragwort and dwarf dandelion. We listen to the plaintive whistle of meadow larks, the mad, joyous flight of bobolinks, curious ditties of dickcissels and Henslow's and grasshopper sparrows, and the wild, haunting cries of the upland plover.

In late summer the prairies are golden with the towering disks of the rosinweeds — prairie dock and compass plant — and purple with legions of blazing stars. The puzzling white balls of flowers rising above yucca-like leaves belong to the rattlesnake master, most uncarrotlike member of the carrot family. In September these wild flower gardens are still brilliant with goldenrods, asters, prairie gentians, and the russet and bronze of the grasses.

Mr. Floyd Swink, expert field botanist and teacher at the School of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois, has listed some of the best prairie tracts left in the Chicago area. The handsomest prairie easily available to South-siders is a twenty-acre tract south of Southwest Highway (Route 7), just east of Oaklawn. It is a joy to observe, from the bluets and yellow star grass of early spring to the blazing stars and prairie gentians of fall. The owners of the new Hometown across the highway plan to make this

area into a "park," plowing up the wildflowers and sodding it with blue grass. They seem favorable, however, to the idea of selling it for a preserve.

The McCook prairie, 160 acres between Plainfield Road and 55th Street, west of East Avenue, near the village of McCook, is notable for its size. As you stand in its midst and feel the wind blowing and hear the plaintive cries of the two pairs of upland plover and killdeer, you can easily imagine that you are inded on the "lone prairie." Besides the more usual prairie flowers one finds here Seneca snakeroot, a small white-flowered plant, and prairie parsley, *Polytaenia nuttallii,* as well as lovely yellow painted cups.

The excellent prairie which borders Dolton Avenue a quarter mile west of Torrence Avenue, a little to the north of Shabbona Woods Forest Preserve, is remarkable for its spectacular display of blazing star, and also for the presence of the rare prairie mimosa, *Desmanthes illinoiensis.* It is to be hoped that this fine piece of land can be added to the adjoining Cook County Forest Preserves.

Of the larger tracts, the area of the low dunes and prairie north of Winthrop Harbor in Wisconsin is excellent. It is gravely threatened by a huge real estate project.

A large area of dunes and prairie is to be found along both sides of Clark Road, north of Highway 12 and west of Gary. This is the famous Clarke described by the earlier botanists of the region, with white, yellow and showy ladies' slippers. Mr. Swink writes: "This area in June is the most beautiful spot anywhere around Chicago, with its thousands of Indian paint brush, golden ragwort, prairie phlox, wood betony, hoary puccoon, hairy puccoon, blue-eyed grass, yellow star grass and lesser amounts of orange-red lily, lead plant, purple prairie clover, stiff sandwort and sand cress."

The Tolleston tract is a huge area, containg some residences, between Kennedy Avenue in Hammond and Chase Avenue in Gary, and between 11th and 25th Avenues. One of the best spots is the marsh just west of Whitcomb Street, together with a natural sandy prairie and woods between the future 15th and 16th Streets. It contains thousands of fringed gentians, sundew, rose pogonia, rose-pink *Sabatia,* now very rare; priarie talinum or flame-flower, also very rare; large ladies' tresses, and the exquisite calopogon.

Besides these areas easily accessible to Chicago, there is a very fine one more convenient to down-staters. This 2,000-acre tract in Will and Kankakee Counties extends four miles due south of the Kankakee River, beginning at State Highway 113-S at a point eight miles south of Wilmington and two miles southeast of the village of Custer Park. This is the only area remaining in the state large enough and typical enough to serve Illinois as a Prairie State Park. Mr. Roberts Mann of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County wrote in his "Nature Bulletin No. 104," February 22, 1947, of the uplands and wet prairies, wooded knolls, sloughs, and sand dunes as follows: "There are various types of soil and all the various types of prairie plants. We have walked over this tract with eminent botanists at different times of the year. Its beauty defies description. A list of the species of native prairie plants, some of them very rare today, most of

them in quantities that provide great masses of color and texture, would require many pages. Illinois, of all states, should have a prairie state park, before it is too late."

Aldo Leopold said: "The outstanding scientific discovery of the 20th century is not television, nor radio, nor the atom bomb, but rather the complexity of the land organism. Only those who know most about it can appreciate it. . . What is the most valuable part of the prairie? The fat black soil, chernozem. . . built by the prairie plants, a hundred distinctive species of grasses, herbs and shrubs; by the prairie fungi, insects and bacteria; by the prairie mammals and birds, all interlocking in one humming community of cooperations and competitions, one biota."

Groups in Iowa and Wisconsin are already making progress in preserving samples of their native landscape, including prairies. Can not we in the rich state of Illinois do likewise? By the cooperation of the Nature Conservancy, conservation societies, garden clubs, historical societies, Forest Preserves, and the State Park system, we *can* save some of these unique areas. Only conscious and determined effort will preserve a few islands of refuge for our native plants and birds from the tides of destruction that are rolling over them.

Without native preserves easily accessible, civilized people tend to lose all sense of kinship with the countryside that nourishes them and with their fellow creatures. Some even begin fearing and hating nearly every living thing, and trying with bulldozers, DDT, and weed-killers to reduce our country to the uniformity and death-like neatness of a cement pavement. If only for self-preservation, we must learn to understand and respect the real world, and not be satisfied with pictures, books and songs about "Home on the Range."

For their beauty, their historic interest, their scientific value to botanists and ecologists, some of these prairie tracts must be preserved as a lasting inspiration to ourselves and our descendants, as "living museums of primeval America." This is our final chance. If we hesitate, the virgin prairies will be lost for all time.

5725 Harper Avenue, Chicago

In Memoriam: Edward R. Ford

By Dr. Alfred Lewy

Edward R. Ford, an honorary director of the Illinois Audubon Society, died in Winnetka, Illinois, January 13, 1951, after an illness of several years. He had been active until shortly before his death.

Born in Malden, Massachusetts on December 27, 1875, Mr. Ford showed his love of nature early. He was engaged in the publishing business in various capacities from 1890 onward, becoming a publishers' representative in 1915, and secretary-treasurer of the Periodical Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1922 to 1928, after which he retired and devoted himself largely to ornithology. He became a member of the Chicago Academy of Sciences in 1910, and was honorary curator of oology from 1931 to 1933, when he was elected honorary curator of ornithology.

He was made an honorary life member in 1944 in recognition for his work in bringing up to date the records of birds collected for the Academy, making a systematic arrangement of the bird skins, and editing with Sanborn and Coursen the list of birds of the Chicago region, published by the Academy in 1934. Before his death, he had finished his work on the manuscript of the new edition, now in press.

Mr. Ford was a member of the following societies: Chicago Ornithological Society (1913, secretary, 1914, president,1918); Wilson Ornithological Club; American Ornithologists' Union (Associate 1920, member 1936); Inland Bird-Banding Association (secretary and editor of its "News," 1931-38); Kennicott Club of Chicago, and the Michigan Audubon Society. He was a member of the board of directors of the Illinois Audubon Society from 1932 to 1946, when he became an honorary director. He also served on the editorial committee of the *Audubon Bulletin*, 1933-1946. In recent years he lived in Newaygo, Michigan, except for winters in Florida and southern Texas.

His charming personality endeared him to everyone he met, and it was a joy to work with him. In the field, his trained eyes missed nothing. He was alert alike to the nest of the Brewer's blackbird on the ground, which he discovered in the Chicago region, and to the humming bird's nest on a slender limb. I have a prized picture of him holding a set of woodcock chicks whose mother he had discovered brooding on the brown leaves in the shadow of the shrubbery. A visit with him to Merritt's Island will remain with me as long as I have memories.

He occasionally contributed quips to "A Line 'O Type or Two" in the "Chicago Tribune," and wrote some verse, of which "The Naturalist" typifies his fine spirit:

THE NATURALIST

Over and over the night comes in,
Over and over the mornings rise,
Again and again is the wonder wrought
And the marvel enacted before his eyes.
Forever and ever the secret is hid;
They babble of mystery, bee and bird;
He listens entranced to their jargoning
But listens in vain for a clearer word.
Forever to seek and forever to ask —
What if his labor is never done?
Labor entrancing is never a task;
Other reward, let it be, there is none.

2051 E. 72nd Place, Chicago

Future Articles in the "Bulletin"

As a continuance of the article on "Save the Prairies" in this issue, the September number of *The Bulletin* will contain a detailed account of visits to the virgin prairie area south of the Kankakee river, near Custer Park, Illinois, by another member of our Society. A map will be provided for guidance. The next issue will also contain the program for the 1951-52 series of Audubon Screen Tours.

Audubon Screen Tours in Review

THE 1950-51 SERIES of Audubon Screen Tours closed on a new peak of attendance and interest. More persons turned out for the lectures than ever before; at one Sunday meeting, over 900 members and guests were counted. We hope that the interest in these presentations will continue to grow and expand in the coming year. The last two lectures were regarded by many as the most outstanding of all:

In the Hills of Gold (March 18, 1951) — Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, professor of zoology at Carleton College, Minnesota, displayed the plant and animal life of the Black Hills of the Dakotas. His movies of these sometimes barren, but always colorful mountains, were rich with native wildlife: birds and flowers, mountain sheep and chipmunks. Scenic areas such as the Badlands, the Needles, and Spearfish Canyon, were beautifully portrayed. But of greatest enjoyment to the naturalists were the sequences showing the courtship of the sage grouse, the amphibious life of the water ouzel, and the nesting of the cliff swallow.

Canada West (April 18) — Bert Harwell, formerly chief naturalist at Yosemite National Park, presented a visual and acoustical treat that his audience will remember always. An accomplished bird imitator, he covered a range of six octaves while illustrating which species of birds sing in various ranges. It hardly seemed possible that a single human throat could reproduce both the guttural croak of a heron and the high, sweet love-call of the chickadee. The picture began with the Canadian Pacific islands, with their nesting oceanic birds, followed the Columbia river up the Rockies, and ended with the grandeur and glaciers of Lake Louise and Banff. For half an hour after the movie, Mr. Harwell delighted a little group of listeners with his amazing repertoire of over two hundred bird songs.



Book Review

Migration of Birds. By Frederick C. Lincoln, formerly Senior Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. 1950, 102 pages, with maps and illustrations. Available from U.S. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 30 cents plus postage.

This is a revised edition of the original booklet published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1935, a small but excellent volume which has been out of print for many years. Bird students will welcome the new publication, which is 30 pages larger and has more readable type, as well as more illustrations.

Simply and clearly written, the book outlines the main migration routes of our American birds. The author is regarded as one of the outstanding authorities on distribution and migration of birds, as he was long the director of the division which maintains all bird-banding records in the United States. The booklet is a valuable addition to any bird-lover's library.

Harry R. Smith, 809 Michigan Avenue, Evanston

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$25.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

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(ORGANIZED IN 1897)
For the Protection of Wild Birds

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CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

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New Officers Elected

THE ANNUAL ELECTION meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Audubon Society produced two important changes in the executive officers. Mr. Harry R. Smith of Evanston, for many years a leader in the activities and work of the Society, has been elected President. Dr. R. M. Strong will continue to serve as a Director. Mr. Charles Kossack was elected 2nd Vice-President and Chairman of the Conservation Committee, a position he is notably qualified to fill by virtue of his many years of participation in conservation and bird protection work in northern Illinois. He will continue to carry out the fine work launched by Mrs. Pauline Esdale, who has worked so untiringly for the Society, and, the Directors hope, will continue to participate in its active leadership.

By unanimous resolution, the Board of Directors expressed their appreciation to Dr. Strong for his many years of unselfish and valuable service to the Illinois Audubon Society. During the ten years of his presidency, the Society has passed successfully through the trying periods of the War and its resultant dislocations, and through the difficult move from the Chicago Academy of Sciences to the Chicago Natural History Museum. Many of the policies he instituted, such as the annual teas, the annual field trip, and participation in conservation problems, are just beginning to show their effect in increased membership, increasing participation in the activities of the Society by various members, and an expanding educational program.

Dr. Strong's many years of experience in wildlife protection work will still be put to good use, both in the Director's meetings and through his officership in several other organizations devoted to the study and preservation of our native landscape. As president of the Conservation Council, Dr. Strong will continue to carry out the high aims which that society and ours have always upheld: to protect the natural resources of America from needless destruction in any form.

Mr. Smith brings his well-known energy and enthusiasm to the task of directing our Society to even greater achievements in the coming year. Though he is inconvenienced by illness at the moment, he has formulated plans for greater membership participation in the affairs of the Society, and a broader scope of educational work. He has our best wishes for success in his new position.

A Virgin Prairie Area: Custer Park

By F. J. Freeman

First of all, let it be understood that Custer Park is not a park but a small village on the south bank of the Kankakee river about three miles south of Wilmington, Illinois. It is a rural-fishingbank-cottage community. To the southwest of it lies the somewhat larger village of Essex, a coal miner's town on the southeastern perimeter of the strip-mine country. To the southeast of Custer Park and Essex lies the still smaller village of Bonfield which is a typical farming community. For the sake of identification, the area within this triangle of three towns has been called Custer Park. The map at the end of this article shows the general layout.

Some years ago my interest was aroused by reading an article in *The Chicago Tribune* by Roberts Mann of the Cook County Forest Preserve District. There was (and still is) some agitation for making this area into a State Park to preserve the remnants of virgin prairie which still persist. In his article, Mr. Mann spoke of the long and short buffalo grasses, the field orchids, the sandy oak-covered knolls to which the early settlers repaired during flood seasons. These we found, and an abundance of other prairie vegetation and some bird life that was new to us. What this area lacks in spectacular scenic attractions, it more than makes up for in plant and bird life.

The area delineated by the DuPage and Des Plaines rivers, the old Illinois-Michigan Canal, the Sag and the Kankakee river forms a broad boundary beyond which certain forms of southern plant growth do not naturally go. Certain species of birds such as turkey vultures, whip-poor-wills and bob-white breed south of this line, skip the Chicago area and are found breeding again in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Whether the lack of these species near Chicago is because of land-use only, or because of more natural and profound reasons would be interesting to learn. The demarcation as shown by tree species is more definite. The sycamore tree can be found growing naurally along the waterways mentioned and some of the tributary streams flowing in from the north, as at the Rocky Glen Forest Preserve on the Des Plaines River. Shingle oak can be found along the canals, and sassafras, to my knowledge, is found no farther north than the south side of the Kankakee river, except that as one progresses eastward, the northernmost boundary of that species progresses northward, and we find it in the sand dunes of Indiana and the southern part of Michigan.

Our first trip to Custer Park was in the latter part of June. We sought out the boy scout cabin, a large log structure which we knew to be there. Just west of the scout camp and across Terry creek is a Polish-Catholic church camp. Otherwise the country seems to be about half farm land and the balance scantily pastured or lying idle. From far and near came the calls of bob-whites. The birds seem to be common throughout the entire area. To the north of the cabin at the fence line we found a Bell's vireo singing at an empty nest. To the southwest in the willow thicket along the creek, we flushed up a woodcock several times; it refused to leave the place. To the south of the cabin, and east of the thicket in a sand blow, we found our

first lark sparrow nest. The bird sat close and when flushed performed frantically. The nest contained three eggs and was on the ground at the base of a grass clump. Later we came back and had a good look at the bird from close up without frightening it off the nest. Another spring I found a nest with three young and two eggs along the roadside. A week later I found the weed-cutter had mowed over the spot. I retrieved the nest with fragments of egg shell. It had to be dug out of the sand as it was well fitted into a hollow. The lark sparrow seems to be fairly common along the road from north of the scout cabin to several miles south. I have not seen it along any of the other roads.

In the cultivated sections of the area, dickcissel are very common; turkey vultures at times can be seen soaring overhead, an upland plover was observed once and a mocking-bird was seen at the former Essex Center school which is now used as a home. I understand that a mocking-bird has been seen in the town of Custer Park also. There are two notable marshes in the area. One is marked on the map with the conventional signs, and the other is marked 'X' and is part of a fenced-off game sanctuary. In the first marsh we were able to observe from the road the greenish eggs of a green heron which had its nest in a button-bush. The first time we ventured down this road it was almost impassable from disuse, and coming out at the west end we had a few anxious moments trying to negotiate a sandy stretch. Such is the "back road" character of many of these byways. Last year some sections of these roads were being redeemed by the township by pushing through with a bull-dozer.

One June day, my boy and I were returning from down state, and although it was supper time and raining slightly, we decided to turn off our route and head toward Essex. Out of South Wilmington we had to detour and one thing leading to another, we became lost. We drove down a stretch of road where the foliage on either side touched the car, and we were able to lean from the windows and pick raspberries. Coming out of this, we headed east with oak woods on our right, a neglected pasture on our left and a small ditch with water in it alongside the road. At this spot we spied a small bird on the fence wire and stopped to take a look. We found a family of four warblers: a male Lawrence hybrid, a female blue-wing and two fledgling blue-wings. The young perched on the wire and were fed by both parents. We watched them a long time, and each of us sketched the male because its markings varied from the illustrations in the books. Our field guides show the male Lawrence with a black throat and triangular patch through the eye separated by a yellow stripe. This bird had the black throat, but the black did not extend beyond the eye and was one with the throat patch. The illustration in the *Audubon Bird Guide* of the immature orchard oriole gives a pretty good impression of the throat and face marking. Otherwise the male was marked as he should have been. The young birds were marked like the female except that the underparts were a clear, bright primrose yellow, most intense on the throat, and much brighter than on the parent birds. The insides of their mouths were pink. The female showed some alarm over our presence and flicked her tail. The parents foraged for food in the low growth along the fence row.

Continuing down the road, we came to a farm and tried to find out where we were, but without success. The farmer knew where he was, but he did not know where we were. At least he could not find the path on our road map nor direct us by means of the map to the nearest town. I have not yet found where it was we saw the warbler family.

It is in the plants and trees that the most obvious indication of unspoiled prairie is seen. The soil is generally sandy, and the patches of woods are filled with black oak whose dark green leaves glitter in the bright sun. There are places where the sassafras is abundant along the hedgerows, mixed with wild grape and berry bushes, hawthorne and crab. The sassafras trees make a beautiful flame-colored display of orange and yellow in September. Although it is mostly shrubby in growth, there are several trees that attain a good height and a basal diameter of 10 inches.

The open fields vary from sparsely covered, dry sandy places to wet meadows. Here the flora is unique in species, variety and profusion. As my interest in botany is more recent than that of bird study and confined principally to learning how to identify plants, my sense of discrimination may not always be the best. I believe, however, that the following flowers are worthy of comment because of either their uncommonness or their profusion.

On April 23rd, we found the moss phlox growing abundantly. This is the native species which has been developed with a pink bloom for rock garden use. In the wild state, the bloom is pale blue turning to white. On June 4th the air was full of the fragrance of grape blossoms. Yellow puccoon was found in great abundance and also large patches of lupine. The false white indigo was in bloom then, and we noticed clumps of yucca which grow wild here as they do further downstate. We found, too, the orange-flowered Krigia, or dwarf-dandelion. Along the road to the marsh we identified the tumble mustard (*Sysymbrium altissimum*). In the wet meadows we found the yellow water loosestrife in bloom and a saxifrage with a spike of small greenish-white flowers (*Saxifraga pennsylvanicus.*)

As binoculars are an inestimable help in bird watching, so is a magnifying glass to the study of botany. One of the most interesting discoveries of the day came, however, through the use of binoculars. After passing through the marsh to the west, we came to a barren sandy field with a sparse growth of insignificant plants. We used our binoculars to look over the field just on the chance of finding something of interest, and immediately there sprang into view a spread of brilliant blue color about the shade of chickory. Without the binoculars, the color vanished. Upon closer inspection we found the plants to be the oldfield toadflax (*Linaria canadensis*). This slim plant was about six inches high and bore small blue blossoms about a third of an inch long. Even close up the flowers looked prettier through the binoculars, being eight times closer and the color that much more concentrated.

In the latter part of June we found the grass pink (*Colopogon pulchellus*) a beautiful orchid with several magenta-pink flowers about an inch across on each stem; alum-root (*Heuchera richardsonii*), a plant similar

to the garden coral-bell, and evening primrose in great profusion. Yellow cone-flower (*Lepachys pinnata*) was just commencing to bloom and in a wet spot we found colic root (*Aletris farinosa*). This last plant I understand has become scarce through use for medicinal purposes. We also found the tuberous Indian plantain (*Cacalia tuberosa*), and some few species of insignificant orchids of the lady's tresses type. North of the town of Essex a mile or more, on the east side of the road, there is a large area of prickly pear cactus which we found in full and beautiful yellow bloom on the twenty-fifth of June. About this time of year we found the wild petunia (*Ruellia strepens*) with lavender-blue flowers about two inches long.

One July at the end of the month we took a trip down to Custer Park for the express purpose of seeing how many of the prairie flowers we could find. Altogether we identified, or had identified for us by Dr. Steyermark of the Chicago Natural History Museum from our sketches, about sixty species of flowers. We found the partridge pea quite abundant, three species of vervain (*V. stricta, V. hastata, V. augustafolia*), figwort, fog-fruit and a type of "heavenly blue" morning glory (*Ipomoea hederacea*); star bell-flower, tick trefoil quite abundant, and blazing star (*Liatris spicata*). Along a certain ditch by a rather well-traveled road we found cardinal flowers growing in profusion. Here, contrary to the usual habitat, these flowers grew in the sun and were so crowded together that the individual flowers could not be seen for their intense and dazzling shade of red. We found the whorled, swamp and poke milkweeds, mountain mint, and American germander which was almost through blooming; two types of compass plant, iron-weed, a pink-tinged bindweed, monkeyflower, fringed and purple loosestrife, Culver's root, and rattlesnake-master, a typical but now uncommon prairie flower. Bergamot, parthenium, black-eyed Susan and woodland sunflower were old friends which added to the variety; while agrimony, false dragon-head and meadowsweet were not so common. Here, too, were boneset, purple candyroot and horsenettle; spiderwort, ground bean, New England aster, and thimbleweed; tall guara, starry catchfly, horsemint, Virginia tickseed; *Helianthus occidentalis, Oxypolis rigidior,* and *Coreopsis trysteris.*

I believe the "find" of the trip was a large patch of meadow beauty (*Rhexia virginica*). This quite uncommon plant was found along the road on which the scout cabin is located. Just after jogging west over the creek and then south again, we discovered the blossoms in the southeast corner of this field. John Burroughs writes of this plant as follows in his "Riverby" (pp. 12, 13):

"Parts of New England have already a midsummer flower nearly as brilliant, and probably far less aggressive and noxious, in meadow-beauty, or rhexia the sole northern genus of a family of tropical plants. I found it very abundant in August in the country bordering on Buzzard's Bay. It was a new flower to me, and I was puzzled to make it out. It seemed like some sort of scarlet evening primrose. The parts were in fours, the petals slightly heart-shaped and convoluted in the bud, the leaves bristly, the calyx-tube prolonged; but the stem was square, the leaves opposite, and the tube urn-shaped. The flowers were an inch across, and bright purple. It grew in large patches in dry, sandy fields making the desert gay with color: and also on the edges of marshy places. It eclipses any flower of the open fields known to me farther inland. When we come to improve our wild garden, as recommended by Mr. Robinson in his book on wild gardening, we must not forget the rhexia."

(*Continued on next page*)

On this trip we found our magnifying glass of more use than the binoculars, and discovered the beauty of such tiny flowers as the horsemint, which had individual green blossoms spotted with purple. The pink-tinged, greenish-white flower bracts, because of their size, render the real flowers quite inconspicuous. And the individual flower of self-heal or prunella, a common plant, is as beautiful in color and structure as a purple orchid. We also were fascinated with the queer 'green-apple' flower of the *Euphorbia dentata*, which as it matures rises on a stem and assumes a russet 'blush' on one cheek.

This article should be entitled an "Introduction" as we find that each time we visit the prairie area something new and unexpected shows up. It may be the sight of a red fox, or finding two types of small lizards, or the large ripe pokeweed whose crimson staining berries we brought home for our bird feeder, or the towhee which sang like a dickcissel, that make the trip memorable. We find each trip has a quality of newness, of expectation and discovery.

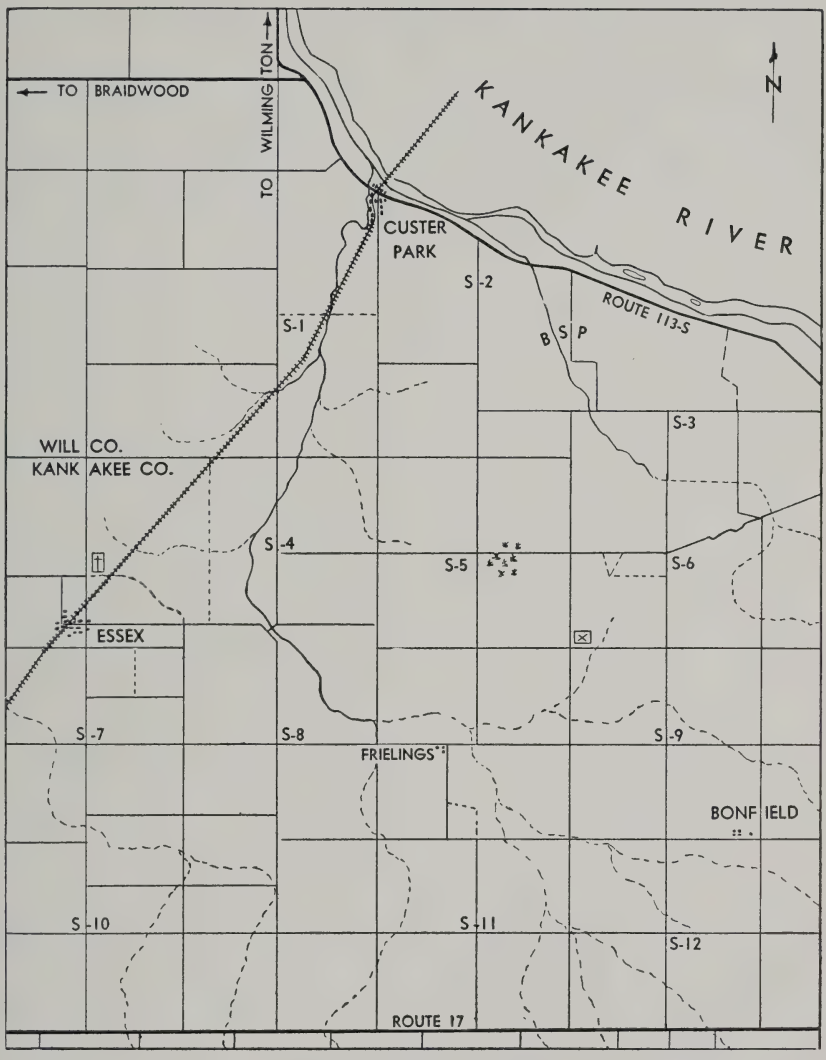
If these few remnants of our prairies are doomed to destruction because of land-use practices and lack of interest by conservation authorities to preserve them, it would seem to me a very worthwhile undertaking for some group such as the Illinois Audubon Society or Friends or Our Native Landscape to sponsor ecological studies of the area so that at least the knowledge of our native prairie flora and fauna might be preserved. Better still, our organization, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy and similar groups, would do well to support a movement to establish this area as an Illinois Prairie State Park.

Explanation of Map

The township roads are usually laid out in mile squares. Some of them are gravel roads, some sand, and some so little used as to be mere sand-tracks overgrown on both sides with shrubbery. Routes 113-S and 17 are narrow black tops. The figures S-1, S-2, etc., refer to country schools now abandoned as such and used chiefly for dwellings. These may serve as useful landmarks, as roadmarks and other signs of identification are mostly lacking. The S part of the figure is located on the side of the road where the building stands. The letters B.S. locate the boy scout cabin; across is a pump marked P. The larger creek emptying into the Kankakee at Custer Park is Horse creek; the one by the scout cabin is Terry creek, and the dotted creek in the southwest corner of the map is Granary creek which flows west. North of the town of Essex is a cemetery, shown as a square with a cross in it. The railroad is the Wabash line.

S-1 Robinson School
S-2 Grey School
S-3 Yates School
S-4 Evans School
S-5 Milling School
S-6 Vining School
S-7 Essex Center School
S-8 Mosier School
S-9 McGillivray School
S-10 Joyce School
S-11 Bassett School
S-12 Sauerman School

320 N. Elm Street, Itasca, Illinois



Fisher Re-established in Maine: One of America's rarest furbearers, the fisher, has re-established itself in Maine where it was formerly extinct. Its lack of fear of man or dog led to its destruction over much of its early range before protective laws were passed.

The Conservation Column

By CHARLES W. KOSSACK

AT THE JUNE meeting of the directors of the Society, I had the honor of being elected vice-president and chairman of the Conservation Committee. In pursuing these duties, I will endeavor to bring to the attention of the members of this Society conservation conditions in general for the United States, with Illinois in particular. However, because of the large number of other organizations friendly to the preservation of soil and water, and to conform with our constitution, comments on wildlife, especially birds, will receive preference.

ILLINOIS NEEDS A CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In this Society we should conscientiously maintain our membership and practice to the best of our ability the conservation of the natural resources of this state and our country. In return, we should at least expect any state department to have the power and responsibility for managing these valuable assets, and to be free of political influence and interference, especially the scourge of the patronage system. The political patronage system has no function or position in a conservation department. Such a department has no function in a political organization, and should not have any administrative association. Most certainly, it should not be used as an instrument of appeasement to satisfy the selfish desires of precinct captains attempting to reward their constituent door-bell pushers with a job (for which they will have neither qualifications nor interest, other than in a pay check).

We should demand that only competent, conscientious personnel having a real interest in conservation be employed to administer the duties of this department. Furthermore, we can only expect to obtain personnel of this caliber if: (1) we have a non-partisan Conservation Commission, basically conservation-minded, as top management, (2) offer employees some degree of security such as a legitimate Civil Service system free from political influence, (3) provide wages that will be adequate, and serve as an inducement for qualified personnel to seek employment in a commission which will enforce the codes without fear of political reprisals.

There are several organizations in this state now working on this reformation, and they are seeking to establish a Conservation Commission. The writer intends to obtain the details from these organizations and will convey them to you for consideration.



New Crop Dusts Worry Wildlife Managers: DDT, an insecticide that created grey hairs on the heads of wildlife biologists a few years ago when it was first sprayed haphazardly across the nation in heavy concentrations, looks like a mild stimulant when compared to some of the more recent products of the chemists' test tubes, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

A new crop dust called aldrin is so toxic that 3/100,000 of an ounce of

the poison will kill a quail. Laboratory tests by James H. Dahlen of the Alabama Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit indicate that this poison is ten times as toxic to quail as toxaphene, and four times as toxic as either dierldrin or Lindane (BHC), two new sprays which are also gaining in popularity. Fortunately, only 1/1000 of an ounce of 2.5 per cent dust is needed to kill all crop pests. The danger to wildlife lies, as in the case of DDT and other insecticides, in its promiscuous use by individuals who feel that a pound of prevention is better than an ounce of cure.



West Virginia Quietly Drops Buck Law: A number of state fish and game administrators are casting envious glances in the direction of West Virginia. At a recent meeting of the Conservation Committee, a regulation was readily approved which makes deer of either sex legal game in all counties open to deer hunting.

The ease with which this regulation was adopted and the calm with which the sportsmen of West Virginia accepted the news are in marked contrast to the near-hysteria which grips some hunters in the "old" buck-law states whenever the sanctity of the female deer is questioned. Although West Virginia only recently became a deer hunting state, her fish and game administrators have carefully avoided the pitfalls into which others have fallen in the matter of deer management. The buck law has been used intelligently as a tool to build up herds to harvestable proportions but is now being dropped before the numbers of the deer *outgrow the available food supply and before agricultural damage becomes prevalent.* More important, the sportsmen and the public at large have been subjected to a well planned educational program designed to give the salient facts of intelligent deer management.

The West Virginia Fish and Game Commission is to be complimented for its progressive action and for avoiding mistakes made by some of its neighbors who have been fighting for the last 25 years to get the public to accept sensible deer management programs.

Whitetails Mature Early: One reason why deer are able to increase in numbers so rapidly that the herds outgrow the ability of the range to support them is indicated in an item from the Missouri Conservation Commission. An autopsy on a nine-months-old fawn, killed by an automobile, showed that it was carrying a 100-day-old embryo. This means that the deer had bred successfully when little more than five months of age. Granted a little luck, she could have become a grandmother at the ripe old age of two.

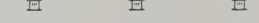


Water Levels Influence Turtle Predation: Evidence that fluctuations in water levels play an important part in regulating losses of waterfowl due to predation by snapping turtles has been uncovered in an intensive study of this trap-jawed reptile by the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.

In 1949, a year of normal water levels, 13 of 32 turtles trapped on

one study area had fed on birds; last year, with high water, only 10 of 72 specimens contained birds. In 1950, broods of waterfowl, instead of being confined to channels where they were vulnerable to the torpedo attacks of turtles, were free to move over the flooded marshes. The pied-billed grebe, a deep-water diving bird, with the diving ducks a close second, occurred most frequently in the food-habits study, which is being conducted by Malcolm W. Coulter, assistant Unit leader. The ring-necked duck and the golden-eye were taken most frequently, although wood duck and green-winged teal also were found. One turtle in each four examined in the study to date had fed upon birds. Because the purpose of the study is to determine the effects of turtle predation on waterfowl, trapping has been confined to the waterfowl breeding season and to areas where waterfowl are common.

Dr. Howard Mendall, leader of the Unit, cautions that there is still insufficient evidence for a blanket condemnation of the snapper as a waterfowl predator and suggests that sportsmen await the final results of the study before undertaking intensive local control programs as a waterfowl conservation measure.



BLM Tightens Strip-mining Regulations: Under a new regulation of the Bureau of Land Management, strip-miners on public lands must take necessary precautions to minimize damage to timber, grazing lands, crops, and waters.

Few human activities leave more unsightly after-effects or leave the land in such unproductive condition as strip mining for coal where the work is not rigidly restricted by law or the conscience of the operators. The earth is literally turned inside out to bare the mineral deposits, leaving great eroding banks of subsoil lying starkly on the surface. The landscape from the air, in some parts of the country, looks as though a drunken giant had been turned loose upon it with a massive plow. Seepage of acids into the streams after mining operations cease is a source of the most destructive pollution.

Under the new regulation, no lessee of mining rights on public lands of the United States will be permitted to operate unless he agrees to leave the land in a condition as near its former state as possible. The regulation specifically requires him to fill all sump holes, ditches, and other excavations; remove and cover all debris; and to remove any structures "as and if required."

Under penalty of cancellation of his lease, the lessee must also take all precautions to avoid unnecessary soil erosion, pollution, and damage to timber and grazing lands.



Known Range of Oak Wilt Extended in 1950: Oak wilt, a fungus disease which is causing grave concern in forestry and wildlife circles, has been discovered in six new states as a result of the joint survey made by the individual states and the Division of Forest Pathology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Freshly discovered points of infection were mapped last year in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Kansas. The disease also was found to be spreading actively in southern Missouri.

Neither the agent which spreads the disease nor its cure has yet been discovered by scientists, although many of them are working overtime on these jobs. Until the manner by which the fungus spores are spread is discovered, there is little that can be done to control the disease. It is known that local spreading takes place through natural root grafts between neighboring trees, but this does not account for the broad leaps from western Indiana to central Ohio to central Pennsylvania which are indicated on the distribution map of the blight. Neither does the pattern of spread hint at windborne spores. Many believe that some insect, bird, or rodent may be the host. To date only the prompt cutting and removal of diseased trees can be recommended. Where valuable shade trees are involved, ditching to sever the interlocking root systems between infected and healthy trees has been used.

Fortunately, there is no indication to date that oak wilt is developing anything like the whirlwind momentum attained by the chestnut blight that swept like a forest fire through every stand of chestnut in the United States during the second decade of the century. The more gradual and sporadic spread of the disease, coupled with advances in forest research, give substantial hope that a control method may yet be devised. Much depends, however, upon the funds and manpower made available to the still underfinanced and understaffed forest research laboratories at both state and federal levels which, together, share a monumental task.

715 South Division Street, Barrington, Illinois

Audubon Screen Tours for 1951-52

The Illinois Audubon Society will again present a series of five illustrated lectures on natural history this winter. As before, outstanding American ornithologists will speak on a variety of subjects. The tentative schedule of lectures is as follows:

Sunday, Nov. 18: Fran W. Hall on *The Four Corners.*

Saturday, Jan. 26: Lucie Palmer on *Underwater Kingdom.*

Saturday, Feb. 23: Bert Harwell on *Canada East.*

Sunday, March 16: Dr. Olin S. Pettingill on *Athabaska Sojourn.*

Wednesday, April 23: Howard Oreans on *Wildlife at Your Doorstep.*

As before, lectures will be held in the James Simpson Theater of the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive. Saturday and Sunday lectures will begin at 2:30 p.m.; the Wednesday lecture at 8:00 p.m. Members are reminded to come early to get the best seats. Official program announcements will be sent out later this month.

National Conservation News and Notes

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Conservation unpopular with the general public. Apathy, ignorance, and greed are the enemies of conservation. Speakers tell us that the average person is bored by talks on "conservation." It has often been found desirable to avoid the use of the word in talks before general audiences and nearly always with children. Even some of the societies that were originally founded to support conservation of wildlife are inactive in such work, either through lack of knowledge by members or through inertia.

It takes effort to write letters or make oral protests or commendations, but unless a lot of us do this, we cannot save our country from the machinations or neglect of those who seek immediate gain or personal pleasure without regard to the interest of others, of posterity or of their own future welfare. As conspicuous consequences of too much regard for immediate gain, we have worn-out farms, deserts replacing fertile fields, and dust storms. Less noticeable to the average person are the ravages of insects or of noxious rodents which might be kept in check if there had not been so much hunting.

Failure of our courts to support game laws is discussed in an excellent article by Claude D. Kelley, president of the National Wildlife Federation, entitled, "What our courts must learn: Game laws are no joke." Copies of this publication may be obtained by writing to the National Wildlife Federation, 3308 Fourteenth Street, N.W., Washington 10, D.C. It consists of four quarto-size pages with several forceful cartoons, and it tells an amazing story with numerous statistics of the failure of the great majority of our courts to support our game laws adequately. The same could be said for support of the migratory bird act as regards non-game birds. Although some of our jurists have been conscientious in enforcement of these laws, the majority of them have given trivial sentences to law violators or have even flaunted these laws. They have even criticized wardens for taking their time with game law violations. One federal judge told a public waterfowl forum that he saw nothing wrong in baiting ducks and that he had thrown out sixty-seven such cases a couple of months before. The following sentence is quoted from Mr. Kelley's article: "There are hundreds of jurists who not only fail to give game laws the consideration they merit, but by their attitude on and off the bench actually encourage violations." Another quotation follows: "I know of a prominent trial judge who for years maintained a baited dove field for the use of his political cronies. He didn't even bother to disguise his activity until a new federal game-management agent was assigned to the state; then he became a little more cagey."

Conservation is a relatively young movement in America. Some European countries saw the need of it many years ago. It is supposed to be the main object of our Audubon Societies, but this is not always the case. The aims of the Illinois Audubon Society are given in the first page of Mr. Decker's "History of the Society" in the March number of the *Bulletin.*

Burns Ditch Harbor Proposal. It is reported that this scheme has had a setback through failure of Congress to appropriate the funds needed for the survey, which was the subject of the hearing in Washington last January before the Bureau of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors. It is of interest that two representatives of the National Park Service made a "recreational reconnaissance" of the region on June 28 at the suggestion of the Chicago District Engineer, U. S. Corps of Engineers. The investigators accompanied by Dr. O. D. Frank and Mr. E. M. Kratz, vice-chairman of the Indiana Dunes Preservation Council. I had not yet heard the results of this inspection when this was written. An effort was made to contact me but I was out of town and could not be reached. I am sorry to have missed the occasion, but we had good supporters in the two men mentioned above.

If we do not succeed in getting a preserve in the region between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres, the next best development of this region seems to be for residential purposes. However, residential use of the region would not serve the general public, and most of the natural history advantages would be lost. It would be better than commercial development because there would not be the danger to the Indiana Dunes State Park from wastes and fumes produced by factories. The problem of saving this magnificent dunes region between Ogden Dunes and Dunes Acres is now up to the public.

Illinois State Parks. A bill transferring the Division of Parks from the Department of Public Works to the Department of Conservation was passed in the last weeks of the last session of the Illinois state legislature. This transfer had been recommended by the Schaefer Commission, and it had the support of Governor Stevenson.

During the summer of 1950, Governor Adlai E. Stevenson appointed an advisory natural history committee for the Illinois Beach State Park with nine members and myself as chairman. This group is also part of the Illinois Beach Park Preservation Association. The preliminary organization work has now been completed. Preservation of the area south of Dead river as a sanctuary is one of the main objects. This ideal has the support of the state and of the Chicago Regional Planning Association, yet there are persons who would like to have the whole park opened up to recreation and who would sacrifice the nature sanctuary ideal. Constant vigilance is necessary to prevent selfish developments in the region.

Waterfowl Population. According to a release by the Fish and Wildlife Service dated March 21, the 1951 annual inventory of North America's waterfowl population, conducted on March 1-3 on the wintering grounds of the birds showed an upward trend which was thought sufficient to about offset the decline reported in the 1950 inventory.

Ducks comprised about 75 percent of the population; geese, 13 percent; coots, about 8 percent; brants and swans, less than 1 percent. The in-

ventory covered the more important known wintering grounds of Alaska, Canada, United States, Mexico, and the West Indies. The survey also included waterfowl areas in British Honduras, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. About 1500 cooperating observers participated in the survey in the United States. More than 80 aircraft were used, and these planes flew more than 60,000 miles on survey flights.

A release dated June 15 was also optimistic about the prospects for the central Canadian breeding grounds this past spring. However, a decrease in both water areas and ducks was reported from North and South Dakota and Nebraska.

However, a latter from Dr. Clarence Cottam, acting director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, dated July 16, reported that a snow storm in Alberta on June 5 and 6 had changed the prospects considerably. About 10,000 square miles of the better prairie breeding grounds were covered with snow ranging in depth from 6 inches to over three feet. All first nestings of ducks in this area were completely destroyed except for a very few which had hatched. The males were observed gathering in large groups after the storm, and it seemed doubtful if second nesting attempts would occur to any considerable extent.

It seems likely that the waterfowl population will show another decline when the next inventory is made. As there is no prospect of a decline in the population of hunters, the waterfowl control efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service will be under continued attacks by unreasonable "sportsmen."

5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago

Membership Dues to be Increased

Steadily increasing costs of printing the *Bulletin* and conducting the business of the Illinois Audubon Society have reduced our treasury to a dangerous minimum. After much discussion, the Board of Directors passed a resolution to increase the annual dues, effective January 1, 1952.

As a second change, the Directors agreed that all dues would be placed on a calendar year basis, that is, would be subject to renewal on January 1st. Several additional types of memberships were established. The advisability of reduced rates for members living outside of Cook County was also considered. In accordance with the constitution of the Society, the proposed changes will be discussed at the September meeting of the Directors, after which a final vote will be taken. The proposed schedule for memberships is as follows:

Active Membership	3.00 annually
Student Membership	2.00 annually
Group Membership (two *Bulletins* per group)	5.00 annually
Family Membership (two members, one *Bulletin*)	5.00 annually
Sustaining Membership	25.00
Life Membership	100.00

1951 Field Trip to Springfield

THE ANNUAL FIELD TRIP of the Illinois Audubon Society will be held at Springfield, Illinois, on Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11. The Springfield Nature League, under the presidency of Mr. Gilbert Wright, will act as hosts. All members of the Society, particularly those from downstate, are urged to attend.

Mr. Paul E. Downing is chairman of the committee arranging details of the trip. For those who are not Springfield residents, a visit to the Illinois State Museum will be especially appealing. Tentative plans call for a dinner meeting in or near Springfield on Saturday evening, to be followed by one or more talks from well-known authorities in the wildlife field.

On Sunday morning there will be a field trip to the Illinois river to observe the wildfowl migration, which should be at its height about that week-end. For those who have never seen skeins of flying ducks sweeping in tattered threads across the autumn sky, or vees of Canada geese beating overhead, their sharp cries ringing in the fresh morning air, this trip will be an experience that should not be missed.

Full details of the outing will be sent to all members in about one month. Make a mental reservation of the date now — November 10 and 11, in Springfield, Illinois!

Ravens Kill a Red-tailed Hawk

By BELLE WILSON

ABOUT THREE P.M. on February 15, 1951, I was driving on a recently opened road, south of the foot-hills within the western limits of Banning, California. A grain field lay between me and the hills. As I had previously seen hawks in the vicinity, I scanned the sky with care, and, sure enough, a hawk was sailing high above the hills.

After hastily parking my car at the side of the road, I turned my 8-power binoculars on the bird. It was a handsome red-tailed hawk, but it was in trouble. As I watched, it dropped almost to the top of the hills. Two ravens were following closely. The red-tail now sprung up, now down in long swift glides, while the ravens again and again came dashing down upon it. Presently the ravens were below the hawk, but almost instantly they were above again. And from their vantage point, they, in turn, with great speed dropped through the air, dashed at the hawk's head and struck with their beaks. The hawk swerved to the right — to the left, but could not elude the vicious blows of the ravens. In no time, it seemed, the hawk weakened and dropped almost to the ground, followed closely by the two hammering beaks.

Soon the bird was really down, falling on its side so that its lighter under parts showed clearly. For an instant the one free wing waved weakly; then all motion ceased. In the following few moments of quiet, the hawk gained a little strength, for it attempted to take off. It failed. After a few strokes it fell into a nearby shallow wash, out of sight.

I understood well the immediate actions of the ravens. They repeatedly flew upward over the spot where the red-tail had fallen and plunged down in turn, apparently striking the fallen bird viciously. Finally, the two flew off over the hill.

To my astonishment, the hawk in a few moments came flying slowly out of the gully. Immediately the ravens reappeared and fell upon it, beating it to earth. Again it had fallen into a shallow trench out of view. Seemingly satisfied with their work, the ravens flew away to a field close by and secured food, which they ate while standing on top of fence posts.

A half hour had elapsed since I had first observed the hawk. I believed it was now dead. But NO! Again it slowly flew along the side of the hill! At once the ravens returned and repeated their murderous blows. This time the dying hawk fell onto a bare area, which was broken here and there by bushes. The ravens must have considered the hawk finished, for they returned to their feeding ground and began searching for food.

After about ten minutes, they returned to the hillside and flew back and forth as if hunting for the hawk. They finally flushed it and gave chase. In less time than it takes to tell, they had struck the hawk down again. Its plumage so mingled with the reddish brown of the sand on the hillside that it was completely hidden from me. The ravens now seemed convinced that at last the Buteo was entirely harmless, for they again left for their feeding ground and did not return.

I continued watching for some little time, but there was no movement on the hillside. My watch showed that it had taken just one hour for the two ravens to kill that strong, beautiful red-tailed hawk.

304 N. Third Street, Banning, California

Book Review

Audubon Water Bird Guide. By Richard H. Pough, chairman and curator of the Department of Conservation and Use of Natural Resources of the American Museum of Natural History. 1951, 352 pages, 258 species, 488 in color by Don Eckelberry and 138 in black and white by Earl L. Poole. Doubleday & Co. Inc., Garden City, New York; sponsored by the National Audubon Society; $3.50.

This is a much needed and long awaited field book of water birds, game birds and birds of prey. Most of the birds are illustrated in the colors of pre- and post-nuptial plumages. The black and white illustrations are of birds in flight. The publication includes all birds in the area east of the semi-arid Great Plains. A four-way cross index plus a well-grouped table of contents, listing species according to families, makes it comparatively easy to locate a species illustrated or in the text. The text covers points of identification, over-all range, breeding habits, weight, size, longevity, and food habits.

This edition is a companion to the *Audubon Bird Guide of Eastern Land Birds* and should be welcomed by all bird students.

Charles W. Kossack, 715 S. Division St., Barrington

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$25.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 80 *December, 1951*

THE
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(ORGANIZED IN 1897)

For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

Published Quarterly by the

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Ill.

Number 80 *December, 1951*

A Guide List for Bird Study

Compiled by Paul H. Lobik

The Illinois Audubon Society receives requests almost every week that begin: "What equipment do I need for studying birds? How do I start? Can you name some good books on the subject?"

The answer is basically the same for everyone. The only equipment one really needs is a pair of alert eyes, stout shoes, sturdy legs, and the patience to look, to listen and to learn. Even less will do: a window sill, a feeding tray, an enthusiastic spirit, and possibly binoculars, have sufficed for some of the finest bird watchers known.

But birding can be improved for everyone; beginners profit from the experience of those who have studied nature before them. For the guidance of newcomers, as well as for seasoned birders who want to increase their stock of bird lore, we present this "Guide List for Bird Study."

Prices are given if known, but we do not guarantee accuracy of the prices listed. Material available from the Society is shown first, followed by literature which may be obtained from other sources. Many items listed here could serve as a welcome Christmas or birthday gift for a bird student. For convenience, literature is classified by letters: **A** for advanced, **B** for beginners, **C** for children, **G** for general interest.

I. THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY, Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Illinois.

A. *Free Reprints.* Apply in writing to the Society.

1. "Food and Shelter for Birds" **G**. Compiled by Edward R. Ford. 6 pp. Includes a visiting list of birds.
2. "Spring Warbler Migration" **G**, by Harry R. Smith and Roberts Mann. 4 pp. Chart of arrivals and departures, Chicago area.

B. *Periodical*: "The Illinois Audubon Bulletin" **G**. Quarterly, 16 pp. Back issues on request; write for prices. Subscription free to members; active membership, $2.00 per year; contributing, $5.00 per year.

C. *Books.* Order from the Society, or purchase before or after "Audubon Screen Tours" monthly at the Museum (write for program).

1. "A Guide to the Most Familiar American Birds" **BC**. Field book for children. A Golden Nature Guide Book; Simon & Schuster, New York. 157 pp. illustrated. $1.00 postpaid.
2. "How to Know the Birds" **B**, by Roger Tory Peterson. Illustrated; beginner's pocket guide. Mentor Books, New American Library, New York. 144 pp., illustrated. Paper, 35c; cloth bound, $2.00.
3. "An Introduction to Birds" **G**, by John Kieran. Garden City Publishers, Garden City, N. Y. $2.50.

4. "A Guide to Bird Finding (East of the Mississippi)" **A**, by Olin S. Pettingill; drawings by George M. Sutton. 659 pp. Oxford University Press, New York 11, N. Y. $5.00.
5. "Where to Find Birds in Illinois" **AB**, by John Bayless. To be published (1952) by the Itasca Press, Webb Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn. About $1.50.
6. "Birds at Home" **C**, by Marguerite Henry. 88 pp., 12 color plates. M. A. Donohue & Co., Chicago. $2.00.
7. "Traveling with the Birds" **C**, by Rudyerd Boulton. 64 pp., 12 color plates. Companion to the above volume. $2.00.
8. "Color Plates" **G** from the above books, available separately. Suitable for framing; in two sets of 12 each. $1.00 per set.
9. Practically any book on natural history listed below can be ordered from the Illinois Audubon Society. Write for information.

D. *Visual Material.* Write the Society for loan agreement.
"Fifty Well-Known Birds" **G**. Set of 2 by 2 (35 mm) Kodachrome slides, with captions. Shipping cost, $1.00.

II. THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York.

A. *Leaflets and Bulletins.* Available from the Service Department.
1. "Audubon Bird Leaflets" **C**. Color picture and outline in each 5¼x 8½ leaflet. Over 100 species. 10c each; 5c in lots of 6.
2. "Audubon Nature Bulletins" **BC**. Size, 8½x11 inches. Set No. 6, containing 6 bulletins on birds, 60c; singly, 10c.
3. "Nature Study for Schools" **BC**. Illustrated pamphlets on conservation and natural history. 10c each.
4. "Educational Leaflets" **B**. Six pamphlets on bird study and feeding, 10c each. Five pamphlets on conservation and literature, 5c each.
5. "Sanctuary Leaflets" **G**: "Songbird Sanctuaries," 30 pp., 15c.

B. *Cards and Charts.* Includes wall charts, colored post cards, and field check lists. Write the Service Department for descriptive folder and price list.

C. *Periodicals.* Free with memberships as indicated.
1. "The Audubon Magazine" **G**. Bimonthly, about 64 pp., illustrated. Free to members of National Audubon; otherwise $2.50 per year.
2. "Outdoors Illustrated" **G**. For teachers and students. Five issues yearly; illustrated. $1.50 per year; free to each Audubon Junior Club. Information on how to form clubs sent free on request.
3. "Audubon Junior News" **C**. Quarterly newspaper of Audubon Junior Clubs; written by members. Free to each club.

III. PUBLICATIONS OF THE U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. (Order from The Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.)
1. Conservation Bulletin No. 1CB. "Attracting Birds" **G**. 10c.
2. No. 14CB. "Homes for Birds" **G**. 10c.

3. No. 17CB. "Local Bird Refuges" **G**. 10c.
4. No. 18CB. "Common Birds Useful to Farmers" **G**. 10c.
5. Circular 609. "Migration of Birds" **G**, by Frederick C. Lincoln. 30c.
6. Wildlife Circular No. 13WC. "Acquisition of National Wildlife Refuge Lands under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act" **G**. 5c.
7. "Conservation in Action Pamphlets" **G**. 12-16 pp., illustrated. Request Leaflet No. 186 WL for titles and prices.
8. Wildlife Leaflet No. 156WL. "Ornamental Woody Plants Attractive to Birds" **G**. Free.
9. No. 180WL. "Aids for Bird Study" **G**. A bibliography. Free.
10. No. 186WL. "Available Publications on Wildlife" **G**. Free.
11. No. 201WL. "Publications on Attracting Birds" **G**. Free.
12. No. 223WL. "Natural Plantings for Attracting Waterfowl" **G**.
13. No. 224WL. "Birds as a Factor in Controlling Insect Depredations" **G**. Free.
14. No. 228WL. "Suggestions for Bird Field Study" **G**. Free.

NOTE: ***No more than five free publications to one person.***

IV. PUBLICATIONS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

A. *State Natural History Survey Division,* Urbana, Illinois.
"Records of Spring Migrations of Birds at Urbana, 1903-1922" **G**, by Frank Smith. Free.

B. *Illinois State Museum,* Springfield, Ill., c/o Museum Director.

1. "Invitation to Birds" **BG**, by Virginia S. Eifert. 64 pp., illustrated. Common birds of Illinois. Free.
2. "Birds in Your Backyard" **BG**, by V. S. Eifert. The complete book from which the above was condensed. Paper, 60c.

V. PUBLICATIONS OF THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Lincoln Park at Ogden Ave., Chicago, Illinois. Sent postpaid if remittance accompanies order.

A. "The Birds of the Chicago Area" **G**, by F. M. Woodruff (1907). 221 pp., 11 plates. $1.00.

B. "Some Suggestions on the Construction of Bird Houses" **G**, by Albert Stevenson (1913). 4 pp., 6 drawings. 10c.

C. "Birds of the Chicago Region" **G**, by Edward R. Ford, Colin C. Sanborn and C. Blair Coursen (1934). 80 pp., 9 illust. 60c.

D. "Study of Bird Migration in Lincoln Park" **G**, by William Dreuth; edited by Charles Clark and Margaret M. Nice (1950). 43 pp., 6 tables, 1 portrait. 50c.

E. "Field Card of Birds of the Chicago Region" **G**, 4 pp., bristol board, about 4x6 inches. About 270 birds. 1c each; 100 for 75c.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS.

A. "Birds of the Orland Wildlife Refuge" **G**, compiled by C. B. Coursen. 30 pp., with maps. Observations at a refuge southwest of Chicago. Distributed by the General Biological Supply House, 761 East 69th Place, Chicago 37, Illinois. Free.

VII. FIELD GUIDES. (Also see listing under Illinois Audubon Society.)

A. "A Field Guide to the Birds" **AB**, by Roger T. Peterson. 290 pp., 60 plates, 25 drawings. The bird-watcher's "bible." Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1947. $3.50.

B. "A Field Guide to the Western Birds" **AB**, by Peterson. 240 pp., illustrated. Twin to the above volume. $3.50.

C. "Audubon Bird Guide" **AB**, by Richard H. Pough. 312 pp., 48 plates. Eastern land birds. Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1946. $3.00.

D. "Audubon Water Bird Guide" **AB**, by Pough. 352 pp., illustrated. Eastern water, game, and large land birds. 1951. $3.50.

E. "Natural History of Birds of Eastern and Central North America" **A**, by Edward H. Forbush and John B. May. Color plates. Authoritative armchair guide. Houghton Mifflin, 1939. $5.95.

F. "A Guide to Bird Watching" **AB**, by Joseph J. Hickey. Oxford University Press, New York, 1947. $3.50.

VIII. JUST ENJOYABLE READING ON BIRDS AND NATURE STUDY.

A. "Birds of America" **G**, by John James Audubon. With color plates from original drawings by America's great artist-naturalist. Macmillan Co., New York. $12.50. With less plates, $5.00.

B. "Autobiography of a Bird-Lover" **G**, by Frank M. Chapman, the dean of modern birding. D. Appleton-Century Co., New York, 1935. Other books: "Bird Life" **G**, $5.00; "Handbook of Birds" **AB**, $5.00; and "Bird Studies with a Camera" **G**, $3.00.

C. "Wild Birds at Home" **G**, by Francis H. Herrick. Appleton, 1935.

D. "Birds Across the Sky" **G**, by Florence Page Jacques. Illustrated by Francis L. Jacques. Harper & Brothers, New York, 1947. Other books by these two (all delightful reading): "Canoe Country," 1938; "The Geese Fly High," 1939; "Canadian Spring," 1947. All **G**.

E. "A Sand County Almanac" **G**, by Aldo Leopold. 248 pp., 33 illustrations. Penetrating observations by an outstanding naturalist and conservationist. Oxford University Press, Inc., 114 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y., 1948. $3.50.

F. "Nature Photography around the year" **G**, by P. A. Morris. D. Appleton-Century Co., $4.00.

G. "Birds in the Wilderness" **G**, by George Sutton. Macmillan, 1936.

IX. BIRD SONGS AND RECORDS.

A. "American Bird Songs" **G**. Recorded by the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. Album I: six ten-inch vinylite records, 72 birds, $8.50. Album II: five twelve-inch vinylite records, 51 birds, $10.50. Comstock Publishing Associates, 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, New York.

B. "Field Book of Wild Birds and Their Music" **AB**, by F. S. Mathews. 401 pp., illustrated. G. P. Putnam's Sons, $3.95.

C. "A Guide to Bird Songs" **G**, by Aretas A. Saunders. 307 p. Diagrammatic representation of the song, with bird description, habitat and distribution; for field use. Doubleday & Co., Garden City, New York, 1951. $3.50.

X. OPTICAL AIDS TO BIRD STUDY.

A. *Introduction.* Any device that aids vision will be of value in bird watching. Opera or "field" glasses, with magnifications up to 4 power, are more or less helpful, but prism binoculars are recommended; 6x30, 7x35, or 8x40 are best for birding. Selection of binoculars should be based on these factors (in order of importance): quality of the optical parts; light-gathering power; width of field; and magnification.

B. *Dealers and Manufacturers.* These sources are considered reliable:

1. Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., 574 Lomb Park, Rochester 2, N. Y.
2. Charles W. Mayher & Sons, 5 South Wabash Ave., Chicago 3, Ill.
3. The Mirakel Repair Co., Mount Vernon, New York.
4. Carl Zeiss, Inc., 485 Fifth Avenue, New York

C. *Publications on Binoculars.* For complete information, consult:

1. "Know Your Binoculars" **G**, by Robert J. and Elsa Reichert. 12 pp., illustrated. Reprinted from "The Audubon Magazine," 1951. Distributed by The Mirakel Repair Co. 10c.
2. "How to Choose Binoculars" **G**. Distributed by Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. Free.

Your enjoyment and knowledge of bird study will be enhanced by the mutual help and companionship of the members of your local bird club. If you wish to join a group, write the Illinois Audubon Society for the name of the one in your community.

If any questions have not been covered by this list, or if you have any other problems involving study of birds or establishment of a local nature study group, write to the Illinois Audubon Society. We will provide information, if we have it, or notify you where full details may be obtained.

Increase in Dues Postponed

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Audubon Society has voted to defer the increase in memberships announced in the previous issue of *The Bulletin.* Instead, members have been asked to make contributions to the treasury in addition to their dues, particularly those members in the Chicago area, who are able to attend the "Audubon Screen Tours" free of charge.

It was also hoped that the income of the Society could be increased by the sale of literature described in the preceding article. Publications may be ordered by mail, or may be purchased at the desk before or after the lectures at the Museum. Books on nature study make excellent Christmas gifts, and the Society has made a point of stocking books for beginners and children. As a special Christmas gift, send someone you know a membership to the Society.

The dues for the Society will remain, at least for the present, the same as shown on the back cover of *The Bulletin.* We plan to place all dues on a fiscal basis beginning January 1, 1952. If your membership is about to expire, please send in your remittance before the end of the calendar year.

Potholes and Prairies

By MARGARET and CONSTANCE NICE

THE WEALTH OF BIRD LIFE reported by early observers in the north central prairie states had long made us eager to see this country. Our opportunity came in 1951 when we planned to spend June in Delta, Manitoba, studying the behavior of ducklings. At the Wilson Club meeting in April at Davenport, Iowa, Paul Errington, James Sieh and Philip DuMont mapped out for us a route which would include wildlife refuges and virgin prairies.



Prairie Violet

Our first stop on the morning of May 21 was at the Villa Park prairie, thirty miles west of Chicago; we found it bright with prairie phlox, cammassia and prairie violets. Unfortunately it is being engulfed by a real estate project. The first western meadowlark sang near St. Charles, and after that on route 64 all we heard were westerns until we reached Savanna. At White Pines State Park May apples were in bloom, and columbine was exquisite on the side of the cliffs where rough-winged swallows were nesting; wood thrushes, wood pewees and red-eyed vireos sang.

In Iowa we found beautiful rugged country with fine woods along the Mississippi, and as we drove west to Backbone State Park, fine hardwoods with a few red cedars and white pines. Along the Mississippi all the meadowlarks were eastern, but 40 miles west of Dubuque we heard both species. The last eastern songs were recorded the next morning not far from McGregor. We thought of Althea Sherman's pioneer life history studies as we crossed the rolling hills and saw the comfortable farm houses almost smothered in trees.

On the Ada Haydn Prairie, named in memory of a fine botanist and leader in conservation, and far-sightedly preserved by the state of Iowa, we found many old friends — shooting star, rattlesnake master, golden alexanders, lead plant, puccoon, and — entirely new to us — torch flower (also called prairie smoke or grandpa's whiskers), an exquisite picture of symmetry with dark red sepals, bracts and stems. A dickcissel earnestly said his say, bobolinks burst forth with ecstacy, and western meadowlarks sang.

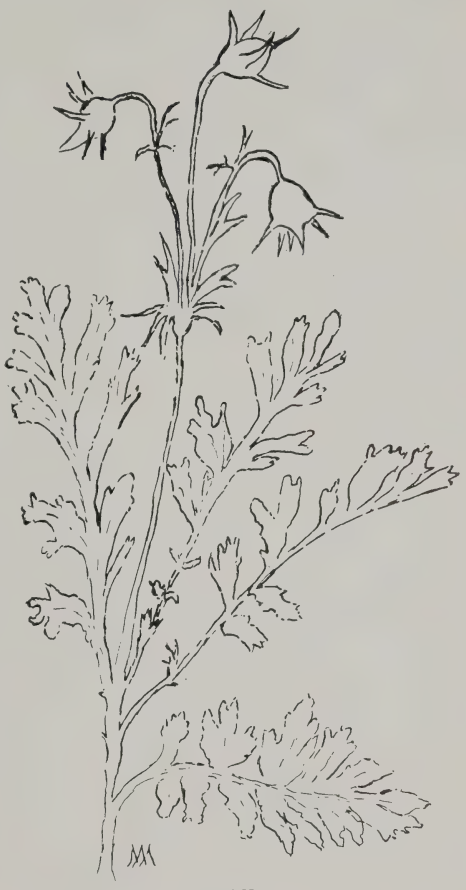
It is sad that in all our trip through Iowa, this preserve, a pasture about five miles to the east, and Gitchie Manitou State Park were the only tracts of native prairie along our route. Otherwise, except for small patches along railroad rights of way, which no longer contain the full variety of flowers and grasses, the prairie has been eradicated.

We travelled chiefly on the main roads — a poor way of seeing native vegetation. The more modern the road, the more monotonous the scenery that borders it. Only a few years ago, road builders were content to smooth the actual roadbed, leaving the roadsides as a museum of native plants, shrubs and trees. Now the fashion is to abolish the small hills, curves and ponds that kept the route interesting and the driver awake. No longer, as

was true a few years ago, are trees and flowering shrubbery planted along the right of way.

Apparently the object is to wipe out all local differences between one section of America and another. The traveller might as well be flying across the country at 15,000 feet for all the local scenery he can see. No trace of the original ground cover is allowed to remain. If it is a hill, it is cut down; if it is a valley, it is built up; no curves are left beyond which one can hope to be surprised by a pretty view. The gravel road-banks which have so increased the colonies of bank swallows in the West are not a feature of the newest roads.

Every trace of native vegetation is carefully eliminated so that foreign hay plants can be sown and mowed right up to the bare wire fence, which borders fields also without a sign of native wild things. One might think it had been done by foreign invaders who hated every trace of American landscape and birds. These practices should not be ignored by people who consider themselves conservationists. They are spreading from the primary roads through the secondary ones right down to the country lanes which are having their lovely hedgerows burned, poisoned and bulldozed out.



Torch Flower

The next day Dean Tanner, who is studying rails for a Ph.D. thesis at Iowa State College, showed us around Dewey's Pasture in the Ruthven Area, where George A. Amman studied yellow-headed blackbirds, L. J. Bennitt blue-winged teal and Jessop Low the ruddy duck. It was a delight to see the gorgeous yellow-heads, black terns and many ducks. We frightened a teal off her nest with eight eggs and were shown a Virginia rail's nest with eleven eggs.

At Gitchie Manitou Park, 200 acres in the northwest corner of Iowa, we found great pink rocks of Sioux quartzite patched with yellow lichens. Here were prairie plants — Carolina anemones, prairie rose and a tiny prickly pear, *Opuntia fragilis*. The same formation and much the same plants are present at the spectacular canyon at Dell Rapids, South Dakota.

As we drove north on Routes 77 and 81, the majority of houses we passed had no plantings around them; we were told these had died in the drought years. Often nearby were thriving shelter belts installed by the W.P.A. These contained Chinese elms, Caragana or Siberian pea tree, Russian olive and Tartarian honeysuckle, as well as two native plants, green ash and buffalo berry, *Shepherdia argentea.* Clouds of Franklin's gulls were following tractors, and ring-necked pheasants were splendid along the roadways. We knew we were really in the West when we saw three jack rabbits.

The Waubay Wildlife Refuge is made up of a series of lakes bordered with bur oaks, their trunks bright with a yellow lichen. Lee W. Arnold, the Refuge Manager, took us around in his pick-up truck. Canada geese were nesting on several islands, the flock having grown from a nucleus of wing-clipped birds. Golden-eyes were using a box on a tree. Cormorants and stately white pelicans nest on the refuge. Mr. Arnold was proud of his two great horned owl nests, from which the young had recently flown, and of the refuge badgers that live on ground squirrels. We met western kingbirds, our first clay-colored sparrows, and, strangely enough, our first eastern bluebird. The junior author climbed 30 feet up in a box elder and found two eggs in a Swainson hawk nest. Beavers had built a great dam and lodge, and, because they had already utilized all the small trees in the vicinity, had started gnawing at enormous cottonwoods. Deer are too numerous and are difficult to hunt in the woods, which is the last original hardwoods in South Dakota.

At Sand Lake Refuge, under the guidance of Henry Nelson, we saw even more birds, even though we missed the 300,000 migrating geese that had been present two weeks earlier. There were five kinds of geese — many Canadas, three Richardson's, and one each of snow, blue and white-fronted, six species of ducks, and twelve of shorebirds, among them sanderlings in rusty spring and white fall plumage, stilts and white-rumped sandpipers, piping and black-bellied plover, a dowitcher, many turnstones in bizarre spring plumage, and two lovely avocets. Also western grebes, cormorants, pelicans, gulls, terns, pheasants and thirteen species of passerines. On a piece of prairie were puccoon, a purplish milk-vetch, and a charming little yellow violet, *Viola nuttallii,* discovered by Thomas Nuttall in 1811.



Nuttall's Violet

In North Dakota we passed much prairie. In one meadow we found pasque flower in seed, a little vetch in bloom, a sharptail grouse, our first harrier, and by two little ponds, a handsome pintail and his mate and a pair of blue-winged teal. On a great overgrazed pasture we met prairie smoke and western wallflower with fragrant yellow blossoms, and dense circular mats of a pussytoes, *Antennaria microphylla,* about 18 inches in diameter; some colonies were white, others pink. (We found Dr. A. O. Stevens' "Handbook of North Dakota Plants" most helpful throughout the trip.) On the pond were shovellers, mallards and teal, yellow-heads, redwings and Brewer's blackbirds, as well as a pair of charming Wilson's phalaropes. But the greatest discovery was that

of several pairs of chestnut-collared longspurs — strikingly colored birds with a bounding flight. The males sang their pretty songs from patches of wolfberry, *Symphoricarpus occidentalis*; they sounded something like western meadowlarks in miniature.

Arrowwood Refuge consists of bottomland along the James River between bluffs covered with gramma grass. Wilfred Hill drove us about and showed us one of their band of five antelope. Bobolinks were abundant. Arrowwood, like all the other refuges we visited in the Dakotas were made by the W.P.A. and C.C.C. in the middle thirties. We did not see many ducks here; the small farm and wayside sloughs are far more productive in raising ducks than are the large lakes. Part of the trouble lies in the technique of keeping the water level too high in the refuges; ducks need marshes for nesting, not deep lakes.

On Devil's Lake we met a mighty concourse of birds — ruddy ducks, horned and eared grebes, yellow-heads, redwings, Brewer's blackbirds, black terns and two hundred shrieking Franklin gulls. North Dakota was suffering from drought and we drove for hours through a great dust storm, passing through Ripley, the "geographical center of North America," seeing many ducks, terns, gulls and nesting coots on the potholes, noting many deserted farm houses, and admiring the shelter belts.

From Bottineau we explored the Turtle Mountains with Bruce Harris of the State Fish and Game Department. These low, rolling hills were a treat after all the level farming country and rolling prairie in the Dakotas. There were paper birches and balm of Gileads, bur oaks and green ashes, aspens and blooming saskatoon, a different species from the eastern Juneberry. On every little lake and slough there was at least one pair of ducks, often several — mallards, baldpates, blue-winged teal, ring-necks and canvasbacks. Clay-colored sparrows gave their buzzy songs. Flicker-tails (Richardson's ground squirrels) peered at us from the bushes. In one woods there was a chorus of song — least flycatcher, yellow warbler, warbling vireo, rose-breasted grosbeak and veery. Here we found large yellow violets, *Viola eriocarpa*, and the most enchanting pink woods violet, *Viola rugulosa*, white to pale pink on the face, magenta on the back.

At the Lower Souris Refuge, Howard Hennicke showed us the sights. These included eared and Holboell's grebes, ten species of ducks, and eleven of shorebirds, four of them new to our list — upland plover, Wilson snipe, northern phalarope and marbled godwits. In fall the refuge men feed 20,000 bushels of grain to migrating ducks, calculating that they save the farmers 85,000 bushels of wheat and barley, as the ducks waste more of the swathed grain than they eat.

North Dakota is a region of immense farms with few houses and these for the most part bare of trees and shrubs. For several days we made our headquarters at the Gateway Hotel in Westhope, exploring the country roads with their fascinating potholes. We watched shovellers, pintails, mallards and occasional ruddies and gadwalls; saw horned grebes and coots on their nests, an occasional pair of Wilson's phalaropes, the spectacular yellow-heads, and ever-present redwings. Vesper, Savannah and clay-colored spar-

rows sang, and sometimes a longspur. Harriers and short-eared owls hunted the abundant voles. And always there was the glorious singing of the western meadowlarks.



Silverberry

On May 30 we drove west to Kenmare, where hospitable Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gammell insisted on us spending the night, their other guests being the Dick Birds from Regina, Saskatchewan, intent on photographing the courtship of the western grebe. Ann Gammell took us on a notable trip to the Des Lacs and Lostwood Refuges, through great rolling hills, by deep coulees and round kettle-holes. We saw our first magpie of the trip, and our first lark buntings. One male gave his flight song. Two baby great horned owls looked down at us from their nest in an aspen grove. A long-eared owl with a broken wing was found by the roadside; we brought it home and it thankfully took pieces of steak from Mrs. Gammell's fingers. We saw all five grebes, horned and pied-billed on nests, westerns performing some of their amazing "walking." We met no less than 33 hawks, evidently a migration. Although they were not shy, it was difficult to decide to which species some of the Buteos belonged. On a fine prairie pasture where silverberry, *Eleagnus argentea*, was in fragrant bloom, as well as a pretty bluebell, *Mertensia lanceolata*, we heard and saw a Baird's sparrow. We watched a willet chasing a harrier; as we crossed the field we frightened the willet's mate from its nest with four great eggs. Both willets flew about lamenting and a male redwing pursued one of them, even hitting it.

As we drove back to Westhope the sky was a brilliant red. We stopped in the twilight by a pothole and listened. A night heron called, frogs sang, and a short-billed marsh wren made his earnest declamation.

Our list for the 1800 mile trip through Illinois, Iowa and the Dakotas was 141 species of birds. The water birds on the potholes and in the refuges were the greatest treat to us. There were 14 species of ducks, 19 of shore-birds. We counted 20 ring-necked pheasants in Iowa, 51 in South Dakota and 6 in North Dakota. Chimney swifts were met in every town in Iowa, but none recorded in the Dakotas. The only red-headed woodpeckers noted were in Iowa, 5 individuals. Western kingbirds were found in the Dakotas, the least flycatcher only in North Dakota. Barn and bank swallows and purple martins were seen in all four states. Only four eastern bluebirds were listed. No shrikes were met in South Dakota, but 12 individuals in the other states. Yellow warblers were abundant after we crossed the Mississippi, while northern yellow-throats were common. Redwings we believe to be the most abundant bird in North America; besides inhabiting every slough, in some places males guarded territories consisting of grass or alfalfa.



Bluebell

Grackles were the commonest bird in Iowa, having greatly increased, according to Miss Sherman, in response to the planting of evergreens around farm houses. Fewer were seen in the Dakotas.

As to mourning doves, we recorded the following numbers per 100 miles: 5 in North Dakota, 15 in South Dakota, 11.3 in Iowa, and 3 in Illinois. It is only in Illinois that doves are shot. Hawks were very scarce except in North Dakota and some of these were migrating. Three sparrow hawks were seen in Illinois and Iowa, 44 harriers in North Dakota; 6 Swainson's hawks in the Dakotas, 7 ferruginous rough-legs in North Dakota, 3 red-tails in Iowa and North Dakota, and 12 unidentified Buteos, one in Illinois, the rest in North Dakota. The total by states was: 2 in 159 miles in Illinois, 4 in 564 miles in Iowa, 2 in 315 miles in South Dakota, and 77 in 800 miles in North Dakota. This is one in 60 miles, one in 140 miles, one in 160 miles and one in 10 miles, respectively, in the four states; one hawk in 21 miles for the whole trip.

We found prairie in all the states, most of it in North Dakota. We were too late for the pasque flower, but too early for the most spectacular display of flowers. It was a comfort to find so much unspoiled prairie, preserved in a few cases, vulnerable in most. There should be state and national reservations of virgin prairie before it is too late.

We rejoiced in all the wayside potholes with their fearless ducks, their grebes and coots, their phalaropes and blackbirds. But our happiness was tinged with foreboding. How long will these fascinating birds be here?

For the government is *paying the farmers to drain their sloughs!* Incredible as it may seem, the farms are being drained under the direction and encouragement of the Soil Conservation Service, aided by subsidies by the P.M.A. An expert told us that duck-producing land is being destroyed by that branch of the federal government ten times as fast as it is being increased by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Many people have the illusion that most of our ducks are produced on the big marshes and lakes in the refuges, or in the North Country. Actually, most are raised in the prairie pothole country of the United States and Canada, and the farmers are being encouraged to destroy potholes as fast as possible. Arthur Hawkins, who flies over Canada to census ducks, told us he counted 50 breeding ducks per square mile on an average in Manitoba, and only ten in the Arctic.

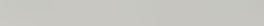
It is extraordinary that we should continue to destroy good duck land to get more acreage for wheat, which is so abundant we don't know what to do with all we already have. Even the farm magazines are beginning to admit that raising wheat is a far more expensive way of producing feed for stock than good pasture.

People seem to have very short memories. One would think that in the Dakotas, which are really semi-desert with only fifteen inches of rainfall per year, and with the experience of the terrific drought of the thirties,

farmers would be thankful for every little pond and slough on their lands. Furthermore, since most of these potholes have no outlet, their water is kept to add to the much needed ground water, not rushed into the nearest river. However, the Soil Conservation Service is doing its best to see that every drop reaches flooding rivers as soon as possible.

We wonder how much wild life there will be along the roadsides another year.

5725 Harper Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois



In Memoriam: Orpheus Moyer Schantz

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Orpheus Moyer Schantz, president of the Illinois Audubon Society, 1914-1930, and a life member, died September 2, 1951, at the home of his son, Worth F. Schantz, in Red Bank, New Jersey. He was born in Port Elgin, Ontario, in 1864, and moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa, in 1881. He located in Chicago in 1890, where he was connected with Carson Pirie Scott & Co., and the Albert Dickinson Seed Company until 1908. Schantz was appointed treasurer of School District Township 39 (Berwyn, Oak Park and Cicero), in 1908, and he served in that capacity until 1929. He was one of the original directors of the Cicero State Bank which he helped organize. He moved to Red Bank, N. J. in 1942 where he lived with his son until his death. He married Cornelia C. Flagler, January 30, 1889, and there were two children, Worth F. and Ruth Schantz Spelman.

Mr. Schantz was one of the founders of the Conservation Council in 1914, and he was treasurer of the Geographic Society of Chicago, 1912-1928, and of the Illinois Chapter of the Wild Flower Preservation Society, 1928-30. He was a life member of the latter. He was elected a life member of the Chicago Academy of Sciences in 1910 and an honorary life member in 1944. He was a member of the Board of Scientific Governors, 1926-40. Schantz was an honorary member of the Joliet Botanical Club and of the Berwyn Kiwanis Club. He was an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union, 1919-37. He was also a member of the Inland Bird Banding Association and of the Garden Lovers' Club of Riverside.

Schantz was especially known as the conductor of exceedingly popular tours in the Great Smoky Mountains for many springs. He was active and influential in the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He was the author of a book on the birds of Illinois, published by the Illinois State Conservation Department in 1928. He also wrote for the "National Geographic Magazine," the "Home and Garden Magazine" and for newspapers. He lectured extensively, and he did much for the cause of conservation. He made many friends, many of whom are widely scattered over the country, and are saddened by his passing.

5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago

The Conservation Column

By CHARLES W. KOSSACK

Miami Host to Wildlife Conference: The 17th North American Wildlife Conference will be held in the Municipal Bay Front Auditorium at Miami, Florida, on March 17, 18 and 19, 1952.

The Wilson Meeting: The 33rd annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be held at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, on April 25-26, 1952.



Pheasant Distribution and the Weather: The long-standing mystery of why pheasants do not establish themselves in the wild in southern climes while the smaller and less aggressive quail does very nicely may have been solved by the Illinois Natural History Survey Division.

On the basis of experiments conducted to date, the answer may lie in the temperature of the eggs during the laying period. Pheasant eggs exposed to high temperatures showed a marked reduction in hatchability, while quail eggs subjected to the same conditions showed none.



The Importance of Winter Cover for Wildlife: Tests conducted by the Army to obtain information on the winter survival of troops unintentionally show the great value of winter cover to game birds.

The research workers used pigeons in experiments to determine the mechanism that permits birds to cope with extreme cold and to find clues that might be applied to military problems. The same experiment demonstrates the extreme importance of adequate winter cover to game birds. In the test, pigeons were placed in sealed jars in cold chambers whose temperature was maintained at 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. Many survived as long as six full days without food. It was found that the pigeons were able to mobilize foodstuffs stored in the body very efficiently even though the extreme cold required an energy expenditure up to four times the normal rate. In the presence of wind, resistance to cold decreased rapidly.

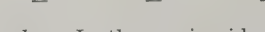
This experiment demonstrates the great need of game birds for winter cover in the northern states. Well-dispersed cover to reduce wind may well mean the difference between death and survival of game birds in farming areas when a blizzard strikes.



Nest Predation Traced to Type of Cover: A theorem of wildlife management, that predation increases as the quality of cover declines, was borne out in a recent study of gull predation on duck nests at Farmington Bay Bird Refuge in Utah by Clyde Odin of the Utah State Agricultural College.

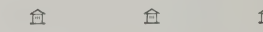
Nest concealment proved an important point in the survival of nests. Gull predation was almost negligible in nests of good concealment, while destruction rose to 33.8 per cent of those poorly concealed. In all, 2997 eggs in 317 nests were examined, and the loss to gulls was 18.3 per cent. A series of dummy nests designed to resemble duck nests under natural conditions

gave the same results. Geese, however, were free from predation because both parents remain near the nest during incubation. The male duck is a less conscientious parent and leaves family duties entirely to his mate. In this study it was determined that the California gull destroyed more than three times as many duck nests and eggs than all other predators combined.



California Quail Guzzler: In the semi-arid canyons of California, where water is the principal limiting factor in wildlife management, the last of one thousand quail watering devices has just been installed. The "gallinaceious guzzlers," as they are called, consist of a concrete or fiberglass apron which catches the scant rainfall and feeds it into a 700-gallon storage tank from which it feeds gradually into a watering tray. Each of these watering devices, with the fenced food and cover around it, is capable of supporting several hundred quail in areas where none were able to survive before.

715 South Division Street, Barrington, Illinois



Book Reviews

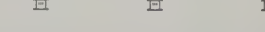
American Wildlife and Plants, by Alexander C. Martin, Herbert S. Zim, and Arnold L. Nelson of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. 1951, 500 pages. Well-illustrated, with more than 700 line drawings of animals and plants, with diagrams and distribution maps of plant species and animals. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, N. Y.; $7.50

This edition was prepared under the direction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a guide to wildlife food habits. Much work has been done on food habits in recent years and the authors have made use of the enormous file of data in the "Service" and literature to produce this excellent volume.

The contents are divided into 3 parts: Part 1 is an introduction to farm crops and wildlife; wildlife food-habits, studies and instructions for interpreting the data in the book. Part 2 covers animals and their distribution, habits and foods. It systematically presents the water-land birds, mammals, fishes, amphibians and reptiles, and their plant preference. Part 3 presents the relations from the plant aspect, and systematically enumerates the plants and the wildlife that utilize them. The arrangement furnishes a cross reference which simplifies the availability of the data.

This book will prove outstanding in its field. Undoubtedly it will be well-received by wildlife researchers and both amateur and professional ornithologists. Home, farm, or estate owners who are interested in attracting wildlife by planting desirable vegetation, whether residential, upland, marsh, or aquatic, will benefit by first acquiring this reference.

Charles W. Kossack, 715 South Division Street, Barrington, Illinois



The two books reviewed in this month's Bulletin *are for sale from the Society's Book Section either by mail or at the screen tours.*

Something new has been added to the many bird guides now available. *A Guide to Bird Finding* by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. (659 pages) tells where, when and what birds may be found on a trip through any of the states east of the Mississippi river. With the exceptions of Delaware being combined with New Jersey and Rhode Island with Connecticut, a chapter is devoted to each state.

An introduction to each chapter explains the physiography and plant associations and lists the regularly nesting birds. The cities mentioned then follow in alphabetical order. The chapter on Illinois covers most of the better known localities for bird watchers but we would like to have seen additional areas included, even at the sacrifice of some helpful details. Rockford and Peoria, two of the three largest cities in the state outside of Chicago, are not mentioned.

An index listing both species and localities makes the work a real ready reference volume. In addition to its practical value, many bird students will want to own the book for the 72 charming pen and ink drawings by George Miksch Sutton.

The publisher is Oxford University Press, New York; the price, $5.00. The Illinois Audubon Society will fill mail orders by parcel post upon receipt of remittance.

Harry R. Smith, Evanston, Illinois

Visual Education

THE SOCIETY is endeavoring to enlarge the file of 35 mm. Kodachrome slides of birds, which is used for visual educational purposes.

Sharp, close-up shots of common water, land, and game birds are needed. Donations of slides towards this file will be gratefully received. However, if any person has slides of this nature to sell, they are encouraged to submit them on approval to the Conservation Committee Chairman, Charles W. Kossack, 715 Division Street, Barrington, Illinois, with the price desired.

Anyone having an outstanding photo which he considers donating to the Society can have duplicate slides made for 25 cents each. The Society will be pleased to pay the cost of the duplication. Correspondence is invited.

An aid in visual education which would make an ideal gift, especially for a school science room, is the "Yellowstone Park Portfolio" of 12, 10x14, black and white photos by Franz Lipp, published by Henry Regnery Co., Chicago 4, Illinois at $1.50.

Six of the photos are of mammals including Antelope, Elk, Buffalo, Moose, Bear and Bighorn Sheep; the other six are landscapes and all are the product of superb photography.

Fellowships for Study in Conservation. The National Wildlife Federation plans to establish three university fellowships for advanced study in conservation. Funds for this purpose will be derived from the sale of sheets of wildlife stamps.

Conservation Notes and News

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Burns Ditch Harbor Proposal. On October 6, Mr. George F. Ingalls, Regional Director of Land and Recreational Planning, Region Two, U. S. National Park Service, came from his office in Omaha to make a third inspection of the dunes region between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres. This time, I was able to accompany him. Mrs. Alfred Pilz sent her son with a jeep so that we were able to cover a large amount of territory in one day. The jeep took us up the steep sides of dunes, and it travelled at about twenty miles an hour most of the time, except when we stopped to examine special areas or to see interesting objects.

Mr. Floyd Swink was with us, and he was most helpful with his fine knowledge of the flora and ecology of the region. A fifth member of the party was Mr. Harold Youngren of Chesterton, who is a devoted member of the Indiana Dunes Preservation Council. He was a good guide. Mr. C. W. Bauman entertained us at luncheon. He has been one of the most active and effective promoters of the effort to try to save the dunes in this region.

It is understood that the National Park Service will make its report in January to the Bureau of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors regarding the recreational and natural history values of this region. If the decision of the army engineers is against the harbor proposal, we shall still have the formidable financial problem of acquiring the land in order to preserve the area as a dunes park. We have not been able to get even an approximate estimate of what this would cost.



The Trumpeter Swan. According to the latest census of the rare trumpeter swan, there has been a most encouraging increase in its population. The Fish and Wildlife Service reports 585 of the birds in the Red Rock Lakes Sanctuary in southwestern Montana and in Yellowstone National Park and the nearby National Elk Refuge. Vigorous efforts to prevent the extermination of these birds appear to be succeeding. The known population in 1935 was only 73.



Federal Refuges. There are now 282 Federal U. S. Refuges, totaling some eighteen million acres, many of which are inviolate. The first official refuge was established in California in 1870, and the next in Indiana in 1900. The Federal system started in 1903 with a proclamation by President Theodore Roosevelt establishing a sanctuary at Pelican Island in the Indian River, Florida. Canada has 80 bird sanctuaries which were established under the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Though we seem to have a large acreage of refuge territory, there is need for more refuges. More breeding grounds in the northern states are also needed for ducks and geese. There has been a great increase in the number of hunters with a corresponding decrease in the populations of ducks and geese.

5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$25.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 81 *March, 1952*

THE
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(ORGANIZED IN 1897)

For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

Telephone WAbash 2-9410

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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

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Number 81 *March, 1952*

The President's Page

By Harry R. Smith

The fact that most of my predecessors as President of our Society were distinguished scientists, while I have had virtually no formal training in biology, made me somewhat apprehensive at my election. However, whether or not we would have it so, the administration of the organization has come to involve business affairs almost as much as conservation or ornithology. In fact, so much of my time is devoted to correspondence and other business details that I am forced to pass over many projects that should be the primary concern of the President.

As Dr. Strong has pointed out in these pages, we need more members who will volunteer to give some of their time, but we need even more an Executive Secretary to co-ordinate the work of those who are willing to help. Our by-laws provide for such an office, but it has been filled for only a few months in the past several years. It would be very helpful if some of our members could suggest the names of volunteer workers for consideration as possible holders of this office.

Unquestionably there are many among our membership who could serve in this capacity. Either an unemployed woman, preferably with some business experience, or a man with some spare time, could make a fine contribution to the Society by devoting a few hours each week to this work.



After a steady increase for four years, our membership has again started to decline. This could be easily remedied if each member would resolve to secure a new member during the next three months. There is no better time than the spring to interest our friends in birds and in the work of the I.A.S.



Due to its great length — nearly 400 miles — Illinois has a wider variation in climate between its northern and southern sections than is generally recognized. Consequently there is a corresponding diversification in its bird life, of which the average bird student is unaware. It was, therefore, gratifying that Dr. Pettingill mentioned this situation in his new book, *A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi.* In the chapter on Illinois he lists 13 characteristically southern species, such as the mockingbird, white-eyed vireo and hooded warbler, that nest regularly in the central or southern sections of the state, but are rarely if ever seen in the north.

A list published by the Illinois Audubon Society about 30 years ago shows 10 additional species in the same category. Although most of these could be added to Dr. Pettingill's list, there are some interesting exceptions. A note on the old list reads as follows: "The cardinal, although found here and there in northern Illinois, can be said to be common only in central and southern Illinois." As we all know, our state bird is now also common in the northern section of the state. The little Bewick's wren is listed as nesting only in the south. It also is apparently extending its range northward, as I have found it singing in Urbana, and last year I found it nesting near Peoria.

There are also several species nesting in the north that are not seen in the south during the summer. Furthermore, without any recent published information on the subject, we may suppose that several northern winter residents, such as the tree sparrow which is common in Rockford and Chicago, would not be so regarded in Carbondale and Cairo.

In view of these facts, it seems to me that the individual bird-watchers and the local clubs throughout the state could make a splendid contribution to ornithological literature by co-ordinating their observations through the State Society in an up-to-date study of the distribution of Illinois birds.

We now have available most of the data necessary for the northern section. We would like very much to hear from all our members and friends regarding this project — particularly those in the west central and southern sections. Please address your communications to my attention.

809 Michigan Avenue, Evanston, Illinois

Dr. Strong Elected Honorary President

BY UNANIMOUS VOTE of the Board of Directors, Dr. R. M. Strong was elected Honorary President of the Illinois Audubon Society in January, 1952. The by-laws provide that: "Any member or benefactor who has performed distinguished service to the Society and is not an active director or officer may, at the discretion of the directors, be elected to honorary office."

Dr. Strong, for the past ten years President of the Society, richly deserves the honor so bestowed. He still maintains his office at the Chicago Museum of Natural History and performs much of the daily work of the Society, handling correspondence and answering phone calls. For all his unselfish and long-continued efforts, we earnestly say, "Well done!"

Membership Dues Notices

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY will soon receive notices that their dues for 1952 are payable. In order to save the expense of individual mailings and follow-ups, all members will be billed each spring, regardless of when their memberships expire in the year. Please send in your dues promptly to help simplify the bookkeeping problem. Each membership will be carried forward to the anniversary of joining the Society, regardless of the month in which dues are paid.

Annual Meeting This Spring

The Illinois Audubon Society plans to hold its annual meeting this spring in Chicago on the week-end of May 17th. The Committee members, headed by Vice-President Paul Downing, are working earnestly to make this the biggest and best meeting the Society has ever had. So far, the following activities are in store:

The meeting will begin with registration early Saturday afternoon, followed by a full business session. Members will vote for new Directors to fill seven or more vacancies, with nominations being made both from the floor and by nominating committee. The officers of the Society and the chairmen of various committees will make their reports. A question-and-answer period will be provided so that individual members will be able to bring up problems of policy or other affairs that may concern them.

There will be an intermission during which the members can meet friends, pay dues, or examine the literature provided by the Society. Then one or more guest speakers will lecture on wildlife, conservation and bird study. There will be more questions and answers if time permits, and then will come dinner.

In the evening there will be a showing of natural history slides and a talk by an outstanding naturalist. Sunday will be spent in an all-day field trip, beginning at Illinois Beach State Park near Waukegan, Illinois. Downstate visitors will find this sand dunes region contains the most diversified types of plant and animal life to be found in the state. Since this will be the height of the spring migration, the trip will include all possible types of habitat — lake, swamp, prairie, ravine, farmland. There will be myriads of spring flowers, as well as birds, and competent nature leaders for the beginners.

The Committee will arrange for dinner and hotel reservations, and also for transportation if members do not have automobiles for the field trip. Members may bring interested friends from other Illinois bird groups if they wish. Full details, the price, and the exact time of the various events will be announced to the members in a special letter in about one month. Make a mental reservation now of the date!

Director Awarded A. O. U. Medal

Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh of Urbana, Illinois, a Director of the Illinois Audubon Society and professor at the University of Illinois, was awarded the Brewster Medal for 1951 by vote of the A. O. U. council. This honor was given to Dr. Kendeigh in recognition of his outstanding work in "fundamental research on temperature characteristics, metabolism and energy resources of birds." The presentation was made at the 69th meeting of the American Ornithologist's Union at Montreal, Canada, October 8 to 11, 1951.

Christmas Census — 1951

THIS YEAR it was gratifying to receive bird census reports from seven Illinois counties besides Cook County. In addition, interesting comparative censuses were received from Indiana and Wisconsin. We invite all our members to participate in the year-end field trips and reports, particularly those from the western and southern counties. Since the Society so far can provide leadership for field trips only in the Chicago area, members who participate outside of Cook County must do so on their own initiative. The rewards of such activity are great, however, both in contribution to our knowledge of wildlife habits and enjoyment of the out-of-doors.

Allerton State Park, Piatt county; 7½-mile radius centering at Cerro Gordo and including Allerton State Park; Jan. 1; 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with 1 hour out for lunch; sky overcast all day; temperature 19° to 23°; wind NNW, 10 to 15 m.p.h.; ground frozen but 95% free of snow; all observers in one party; 5½ party hours (3½ on foot, 2 by car); 85 party miles (5 on foot, 80 by car). Red-tailed hawk, 1; rough-legged hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; bob-white, 16; ring-necked pheasant, 1; yellow-shafted flicker, 4; red-bellied woodpecker, 13; red-headed woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 3; downy woodpecker, 10; horned lark, 2; blue jay, 36; American crow, 332; black-capped chickadee, 31; tufted titmouse, 29; white-breasted nuthatch, 14; red-breasted nuthatch, 1; brown creeper, 11; starling, 177; house sparrow, 90; cardinal, 38; purple finch, 2; American goldfinch, 3; slate-colored junco, 25; American tree sparrow, 27; song sparrow, 1. Total 26 species, 870 individuals.—*Miss Helen Gorham, Dean Gorham, Roger Simpson, Robert Kirby, Dean Fisher.*

Decatur, Macon county; 7½-mile radius centering at Millikin university and including Lake Decatur, Sangamon river, Steven's creek, and Fairview Park; Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; clear early in the morning, becoming lightly overcast by noon and continuing throughout the day; temperature 35° to 44°; wind SSW, 15-17 m.p.h.; 2 in. of crusted snow on the ground; all fresh water frozen except Sangamon river; 9½ hours (7½ on foot, 2 by car); 46 miles (12 on foot, 34 by car). Mallard, 3; black duck, 2; red-tailed hawk, 3; red-shouldered hawk, 2; sparrow hawk, 4; bob-white, 33; ring-billed gull, 3; barred owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 2; yellow-shafted flicker, 5; red-bellied woodpecker, 7; hairy woodpecker, 9; downy woodpecker, 23; horned lark, 2; blue jay, 29; American crow, 106; black-capped chickadee, 24; tufted titmouse, 31; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; brown creeper, 8; winter wren, 1; Carolina wren, 6; golden-crowned kinglet, 3; starling, 122; house sparrow, 125; cardinal, 69; purple finch, 9; American goldfinch, 13; slate-colored junco, 24; American tree sparrow, 13; song sparrow, 27. Total 31 species, 710 individuals. (Seen in area during week, red-headed woodpecker, 1; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 1.)—*Dean Fisher.*

Princeton, Bureau county; 15-mile radius, starting south Main street of Princeton and including Old Pike road approaching Illinois river bridge to Hennepin and Bryant Grove. Trips made on highways three directions from the village; pasture 10%, plowed field 10%, town 10%, outskirts 10%, groves 25%, marsh 10%, farms 25%; ground covered with 36-38 inches of crusted snow; all fresh water frozen except two small spots in marsh along Hennepin pike. Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clear; 8° below zero to 5° above by afternoon; wind W to SE, 3-5 miles per hour. Nineteen observers in six parties. Total party-hours, 53 (16 on foot, 37 by auto); total party miles, 138 (10 on foot, 128 by auto). Brant, 1; shoveller, 1; Cooper's hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 2; bob-white quail, 72; flicker, 1; red-bellied woodpecker, 3; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 12; horned lark, 31; blue jay, 23; crow, 22; black-capped chickadee, 51; tufted titmouse, 21; white-breasted nuthatch, 17; red-breasted nuthatch, 3; brown creeper, 2; robin, 1; starling, 89; house sparrow, 461; bronzed grackle, 6; cardinal, 41; purple finch, 4; slate-colored junco, 76; tree sparrow, 1; song sparrow, 4. Total 26 species, 948 individuals.

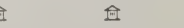
Other observations: 2 meadowlarks seen in pasture in West Princeton; 3 robins have been reported before and since the census; 1 northern shrike seen January 2. Snowy owl seen six miles N.E. of Princeton Jan. 8; this may be the owl that was seen at the same place around the 27th of December. Mrs. O. E. Runft reported a barred owl near Sheffield, Illinois.—*Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Rudiger, Mrs. Richard Skinner, Miss Donnabelle Fry, Mrs. Philip Schwabenland, Mrs. Cullom Anderson, Mrs. Frank Polson, Miss Georgia Winship, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kramer, Mrs. Bert Gibbs, Mr. Cairo Trimble, Miss Edith Sharp, Mr. Gordon Walstrom, Mrs. C. W. Geppelt, Mr. Clarence Conley, Mrs. Oren Spaulding, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Dyke, all members of Princeton, Illinois Audubon Club.*



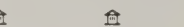
Princeton, Bureau county. Thomas Farm and woods, 220 acres, 60% wooded pasture, 40% farming area. Woods consisting of oak, hickory, ash, walnut, basswood with undergrowth of hawthorn, hazel brush, wild crab and wahoo. Dec. 27-28-29. Clear, temperature varying from 8° below zero Dec. 27th, rising to 31° above by Dec. 29th; wind on first day W to SE changing to S (begining of a real thaw), 3-5 m.p.h.; ground covered with 36-38 inches crusted snow. Almost all water in three creeks frozen. Two observers in one party, making three daily trips by bob-sled and on foot. Total party hours, 16. Red-tailed hawk, 1; mourning dove, 2; flicker, 2; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; red-headed woodpecker, 7; downy woodpecker, 4; blue jay, 8; crow, 60; black-capped chickadee, 6; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; starling, 24; house sparrow, 100 (est.); cardinal, 2; slate-colored junco, 12. Total 16 species, 232 individuals, (est.)—*Mr. & Mrs. Harry Thomas, Mrs. Alfred Dyke (compiler); all members, Princeton, Illinois Audubon Club.*

After the census date, Mr. Thomas saw a sparrow hawk, goshawk, and a flock of prairie horned larks in which he thought were some longspurs.

Lisle, DuPage county, Illinois; 800 acres within Morton Arboretum; Dec. 16 (not in census period but submitted for comparison); 9:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.; cloudy; temperature 10° below zero to 3° above. (During the early morning it was 21 below.) Ground covered by 10 inches of snow on level; east side of park closed by drifts. Two miles on foot, six miles by auto. Ring-necked pheasant, 1; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 3; blue jay, 2; American crow, 34; black-capped chickadee, 9; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; red-breasted nuthatch, 2; cedar waxwing, 15; starling, 11; house sparrow, 35; rusty blackbird, 1; cardinal, 6; purple finch, 4; pine grosbeak, 12; pine siskin, 8; slate-colored junco, 8. Total 17 species, 158 individuals.—*9 members and friends of the Chicago Ornithological Society, led by Karl E. Bartel.*



Lisle, DuPage county, Morton Arboretum; Dec. 28; 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; partly cloudy; SW wind; temperature 32°; all ground covered with snow up to two feet. Observations made mostly in west half of Arboretum as east half was closed; some observations were made at the Administration building, and four miles of highway to the north and west of the Arboretum were included. Many of the birds were counted when trapped at the banding station, operated by Bartel. Red-tailed hawk, 3; sparrow hawk,1; ring-necked pheasant, 4; screech owl, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 5; blue jay, 5; American crow, 35; black-capped chickadee, 23; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; red-breasted nuthatch, 4; brown creeper, 3; American robin, 1; cedar waxwing, 13; starling, 18; house sparrow, 10; cardinal, 5; purple finch, 11; pine grosbeak, 13; pine siskin, 26; slate-colored junco, 6; tree sparrow, 14. Total 22 species, 203 individuals.—*Karl E. Bartel.*



Roadside Census from Blue Island, Cook County, to Channahon, Will county, Morris, Grundy county and back to Blue Island. Stopping at Pilcher Park Arboretum, Joliet, then to Channahon, along tow-path of I. & M. Canal from Channahon to Morris on the northwest side of the river. Then from Morris to Channahon on the south-east side of the Illinois River. Dec. 30; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; ½ mile on foot, 120 miles by auto. Many roads were impassable, causing many detours. A light mist hung around all day; temperature 35°; SE wind turning to SW in afternoon. Most backwaters and creeks frozen; ground covered with six inches to three feet of snow. Observers in one party. Double-crested cormorant, 1; mallard duck, 60; black duck, 6; American golden-eye, 1; American merganser, 2; red-tailed hawk, 4; red-shouldered hawk, 2; rough-legged hawk, 2; sparrow hawk, 3; ring-necked pheasant, 22; herring gull, 5; mourning dove, 2; screech owl, 1; flicker, 2; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 11; blue jay, 4; crow, 60; black-capped chickadee, 24; tufted titmouse, 5; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; brown creeper, 2; golden-crowned kinglet, 1; starling, 50+; house sparrow, 100+; eastern meadowlark, 2; cardinal, 25; goldfinch, 3; slate-colored junco, 50; tree sparrow, 100+; song sparrow, 3. Total 32 species, 556 individuals.—*Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Campbell, Karl E. Bartel.*

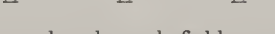
Chicago, Cook county (33 miles of lake front, starting at 79th street beach and ending up at Tower road, Winnetka). Jan. 2; 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temperature 25°; ground covered with snow up to two feet; all of lake and harbors open; wind light S.E. Mallard, 16; ring-necked duck, 1; American golden-eye, 320; bufflehead, 1; old-squaw, 800; American merganser, 4825+; red-breasted merganser, 1100+; sparrow hawk, 1; herring gulls, 800+; ring-billed gulls, 6; downy woodpecker, 3; black-capped chickadee, 2; red-breasted nuthatch, 1; starlings, 6; house sparrows, 10; cardinal, 1; eastern snow buntings, 3. Total 17 species, 7906+ individuals.—*Karl E. Bartel.*



Roadside Census in Cook County. Starting at Calumet Lake, south to Dolton, west to Harvey, Oak Forest, Orland and Palos Park, north to Willow Springs, then east to Worth and Blue Island. Stops were made all along Doty Ave., by Calumet Lake, and all places along the roads where birds were seen to flit. Dec. 25; 11:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.; fresh snow on ground covering old snow from six inches to three feet deep. Calumet Lake frozen over except for two small spots close to the highway at 110th street; temperature 30°; wind NW 10 miles per hour; cloudy; 60 miles by auto. American golden-eye, 11; American merganser, 2; red-breasted merganser, 1; red-tailed hawk, 4; red-shouldered hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 2; herring gull, 10,000+; ring-billed gull, 15; screech owl, 2; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 2; prairie horned lark, 10; blue jay, 3; crow, 19; black-capped chickadee, 1; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; starling, 250+; house sparrow, 30; cardinal, 9; slate-colored junco, 20; tree sparrow, 14. Total 22 species, 10,400+ individuals.—*Karl E. Bartel, J. O. Young.*



Palos Park, Cook county; covering five-bird-banding and feeding stations of Dr. & Mrs. McQuarrie, Miss Alice Greenacre, Dr. & Mrs. Bressler, Mr. & Mrs. John Goes, and Mr. & Mrs. A. Lord. Dec. 30; hazy, snow melting. Flicker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 6; downy woodpecker, 30; blue jay, 9; crow, 25; black-capped chickadee, 65; tufted titmouse, 8; white-breasted nuthatch, 8; brown creeper, 1; cardinal, 8; slate-colored junco, 25. Total 11 species, 186 individuals. A prairie horned lark was seen just west of Blue Island on the way out. On December 6th an injured white-throated sparrow was brought to Mrs. McQuarrie, but died the following day. On December 9th a killdeer was found on the pond by Mr. A. Lord.—*Alfred H. Reuss.*



Flossmoor, Cook county; brush and fields south of Flossmoor; five miles, three hours in the field; Dec. 29. Downy woodpecker, 2; American crow, 5; black-capped chickadee, 10; house sparrow, 10; cardinal, 5; purple finch, 1; slate-colored junco, 2. Total 7 species, 35 individuals.—*Inez L. Buell.*

Blue Island, Cook county; vicinity of Oak Hill banding station and fields south and east; Dec. 18 to Dec. 31; (listing largest number of birds seen in any one day); ground covered with snow the entire time; temperature ranging from 15° below zero to 42° above. Cooper's hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 4; herring gull, 200+; screech owl, 2; flicker, 1; downy woodpecker, 3; prairie horned lark, 2; blue jay, 2; crow, 12; red-breasted nuthatch, 1; brown creeper, 1; starling, 200+; house sparrow, 125+; cardinal, 6; slate-colored junco, 13; tree sparrow, 18; song sparrow, 1. Total 19 species, 603+ individuals.—*Karl E. Bartel.*

Waukegan, Lake county; Waukegan harbor, woods and fields, open water at Public Service plant; Jan. 1; 9:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; ground covered with snow up to two feet; lake open all along the shore; cloudy; wind west at 10 miles per hour; temperature 15°; 19 observers together. Double-crested cormorant, 1; mallard, 6; black ducks, 2; lesser scaup, 125; American golden-eye, 70; bufflehead, 2; old-squaw, 50; American mergansers, 30; red-breasted mergansers, 20; red-shouldered hawk, 1; rough-legged hawk, 1; herring gulls, 250+; ring-billed gulls, 15; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 1; blue jay, 1; crow, 4; starling, 100+; house sparrow, 25; goldfinch, 7; slate-colored junco, 3; tree sparrow, 3. Total 22 species, 718+ individuals.—*Amy G. Baldwin, Karl E. Bartel, Lori Binford, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Campbell, Charles T. Clark, Mr. H. T. Dean, John Janusy, Thomas Kemper, Dr. Kovacsh, Gene Lukasik, Mr. and Mrs. Menzner, Theodore Nork, Alfred H. Reuss, Millicent Stebens, Mr. J. O. Young and daughters Bonny and Margaret.*

Michigan City, Lake county, Indiana; 7½ mile radius centering on Beverley Shores and highway U.S. 12, east to Michigan City, west to Baileytown; lake shore 40%, deciduous woods 20%, marsh 15%, coniferous woods 10%, river bank 5%, tamarack bog 5%, dwellings 5%; Dec. 30, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; sunny; temperature 29° to 38°; four observers in two parties. Ten hours; two on foot, 8 by car; 48 miles; 6 on foot, 42 by car. Black duck, 35; canvas-back, 1; lesser scaup, 20; American golden-eye, 361; bufflehead, 325; old-squaw, 1000; white-winged scoter, 1; American merganser, 850; red-breasted merganser, 8; hawk (?), 1; ring-necked pheasant, 1; herring gull, 121; ring-billed gull, 21; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; red-headed woodpecker, 4; hairy woodpecker, 4; downy woodpecker, 10; blue jay, 45; crow, 4; black-capped chickadee, 25; tufted titmouse, 8; white-breasted nuthatch, 9; starling, 19; house sparrow 200; red-winged blackbird, 42; cardinal, 12; evening grosbeak, 2; pine grosbeak, 7; goldfinch, 2; slate-colored junco, 20; tree sparrow, 22; song sparrow, 6; snow bunting, 3. Total 33 species, 3190 individuals. (Seen in area but not on count day, redhead duck, hooded merganser, mallard duck, red-eyed towhee, flicker, white-crowned sparrow, white-throated sparrow, Bonaparte's gull.)—*Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Grow, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Segal.*

Northern Porter county, Indiana; from Lake-Porter county boundary line east to Baileytown; deciduous woods 50%; marsh 20%; lake shore 10%; lawns and shrubs 10%; river bank 5%; coniferous woods 5%; Dec. 27, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunny; temperature 1° below to 16° above; two observers in one party. Nine hours, 12 miles on foot. American merganser, 80; ring-necked pheasant, 1; herring gull, 200; ring-billed gull, 4; red-headed woodpecker, 4; hairy woodpecker, 3; downy woodpecker, 6; house sparrow, 50; blue jay, 18; crow, 2; black-capped chickadee, 15; tufted titmouse, 1; red-breasted nuthatch, 1; starling, 6; cardinal, 4; evening grosbeak, 4; American goldfinch, 4; slate-colored junco, 6; tree sparrow, 24; lapland longspur, 2; snow bunting, 5. Total 21 species, 438 individuals.—*Paul Davis, Raymond Grow.*

Elmwood, Wisconsin, (approximately 60 miles from St. Paul and Minneapolis). About 40 acres along the river bottom of the Eau Galle River along the village limits of Elmwood, Wisconsin. Three hours in the field, traveling about ¾ mile. Ring-necked pheasant, 1; red-bellied woodpecker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 2; phoebe, 1; blue jay, 4; crow, 2; black-capped chickadee, 6; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; robin, 1; starling, 4; house sparrow, 20; cardinal, 6; slate-colored junco, 2; tree sparrow, 1. The phoebe was distinctly seen twice, once feeding from house scraps, and the other time traveling from branch to branch in the river bottom. It had no wing bars, and was distinctly olive green on the belly and sides. We heard it call across the river much like a pewee. Total 14 species, 53 individuals.—*Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Beers, Elmhurst, Ill.* (Three Song Sparrows are spending the winter in our back yard).

Thank You, Members

THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS of the Illinois Audubon Society send a sincere "Thank you!" to all members and friends who responded so generously to the appeal for contributions to help defray the expenses of "Audubon Screen Tours" at the Chicago Natural History Museum. A box was provided in the theater lobby at two of the lectures, and the amount collected so far assures at least four talks next year.

Our arrangement with the Museum does not permit us to charge admissions at the lectures, as most ornithological societies do; hence the costs must be paid from membership funds or through donations. Members who have not contributed so far may do so at the lectures on Sunday, March 16, or Wednesday evening, April 23. The officers feel that this method will be more acceptable than the alternative of increasing annual dues of the Society.

The Conservation Column

By CHARLES W. KOSSACK

Part of the material presented in this column each quarter is made possible through news bulletins released by the Wildlife Management Institute, National Wildlife Federation, Outdoor Writers Association, Wisconsin Conservation Department, Michigan Conservation Department, Fish & Wildlife Service, and some state universities. To them I wish to express my appreciation for the use of their material. An additional contribution of this column will be to review at least one book each quarter on animals and habitats that is worthy of recommendation for your library and reference.

Chapman Attacked for Impartiality: For saying that he is attempting to find a fair solution to the fight that has raged around Dinosaur National Monument, Secretary of the Interior Chapman has been strongly criticized by some westerners.

Addressing the National Audubon Society in New York, Chapman stated, "I sincerely hope that we might work out a solution whereby the Split Mountain and Echo Park Dams need not be built." This paralleled an earlier statement by Assistant Secretary Dale Doty in Los Angeles indicating that plans for the controversial dams may be changed. The latter statement drew an immediate attack from Senator Arthur V. Watkins of Utah who demanded a retraction. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that the backers of the movement to destroy Dinosaur have no desire to find a fair solution that would provide the desired power and water storage without inundating the Monument's massive canyons.

General Ulysses S. Grant III, president of the American Planning and Civic Association, has clearly refuted the claim that these dams alone can provide essential water for the region. Using estimates of the Bureau of Reclamation, he has shown that alternate sites will cost less money and provide more power and water storage.

The open-minded attitude of Secretary Chapman in trying to find a solution that will save Dinosaur and still provide for the industrial and agricultural needs of Utah will be applauded by all fair-thinking Americans. It reaffirms the faith of conservationists in the leadership of the federal conservation program.

This situation is worthy of the time needed to write your congressmen encouraging them to support the Bureau of Reclamation's recommendations for the alternate sites. There is no room in our American way of life for any public servant who is not willing to consider a solution to a problem which will benefit all concerned. The people of Utah should govern themselves accordingly.

Highway Cuts Montezuma Wildlife Refuge: Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in western New York is to be crossed by a four-lane superhighway under plans of the New York Department of Public Works.

Approval has been granted by the Secretary of the Interior after consultation with officials of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Although news of this encroachment on federal waterfowl lands by construction projects has caused alarm in some circles, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not feel that the facts justify the furore which the project has created.

According to J. Clark Salyer II, chief of the division of wildlife refuges, an intensive study of all potential effects of the construction work has been made and conclusions were that the construction activities will enhance rather than impair the usefulness of the refuge. The primary reason for this is that the new roadbed will provide a far more adequate dike against flood waters than those maintained by the Service and will tend to aid in the stabilization of water levels during the breeding season. Excellent cooperation has been given by the New York Department of Public Works, which will install water-control structures, fences, and other needed facilities along its right-of-way. It will also provide turnout areas along the highway traversing the marsh where travelers may stop to observe the waterfowl. Experience has shown that moving traffic has little disturbing effect on brooding birds. Only 20 acres of a 1,000 acre pool will be removed from waterfowl use. Since 1938, the Department of Public Works has turned over to the Service to use for refuge purposes approximately 600 acres of marsh and swamp. In the face of these facts, the Fish and Wildlife Service felt that it had no alternative other than to approve the project. F. C. Edminister of the Soil Conservation Service has investigated this area and recommends that conservationists drop their objections.



Botulism Control Program: All persons interested in waterfowl owe a debt of gratitude to Utah's Fish and Game Department and its emergency botulism control program which is beginning to salvage stricken ducks from the alkaline marshes of this state. A control program initiated with the aid of Pittman-Robertson funds is expected to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of ducks during the next three years.

Game technicians retrieve affected birds and take them to a hospital area where they are given inoculations of botulism anti-toxin and provided with clean food and water until they have recovered sufficiently, when they are banded and released. Water manipulation programs are carried out to lower or raise water levels and thus keep the birds away from stagnant fringe areas of decayed aquatic vegetation.

Botulism is similar to food poisoning in human beings and is caused by bacteria present in rotting aquatic vegetation. Warm, shallow, stagnant waters of high alkaline content create ideal conditions for the growth and development of the bacteria. Such conditions are prevalent in Utah waters during the late summer with the diversion of mountain streams (which formerly provided an adequate flow of oxygen-laden water to the marshes) to irrigation projects and reservoirs. As a result, thousands of ducks have fallen into death traps at the stream deltas. The Bear River National Wildlife Refuge and state refuges at Ogden Bay and

Farmington Bay were created, in part, to alleviate this problem. Last year, however, 40,000 ducks died on the vast marshes below the Bear River Refuge and it is to combat the problem outside refuge boundaries that the new program is being initiated.

Utah is an important waterfowl nesting area and the state's botulism control program should provide additional insurance against serious losses of birds in future years.



An S.O.S. On Behalf of the Tule Lake Refuge: Kenneth McLeod of Klamath Falls, Oregon, states the time is rapidly approaching when conservationists will have to rise up in wrath and demand that something be done to insure the future of this vital unit of the Pacific flyway system. From here it would appear that the Fish and Wildlife Service is doing nothing toward stemming the threat of total destruction of the area.

The latest move of exploitation is to create an irrigation district to take over the entire area from the Bureau of Reclamation. The first step in this direction has already been taken. The second step in this chain of events leading toward the destruction of the Refuge will take place this year when the inspector of the California state board of water resources will inspect the area to determine the feasibility of private ownership taking over the maintenance and operation of the district.

A map showing the aims of the irrigation district to "engulf an area of more than 90,000 acres," illustrates that the area would be divided into five sub-districts without consideration for the present refuge. Once the land passes into private ownership, all sump lands will be privately owned. Once in private hands, agitation will be strong to eliminate the lower sump entirely as well as to reduce the size of the larger body of water, if not to eliminate it entirely.

The solution to our refuge problem can come about only through an act of Congress giving a legal status to the refuge in this area. At the present time all of the great refuge areas in the Klamath Basin are merely plasters upon land held by the Bureau of Reclamation for reclamation purposes only. At any time, the Bureau of Reclamation would be within its legal right to eliminate any refuge. The pressure of public opinion would stop such an overt act so selfish interests just whittle away a small chunk at a time.

Rather than run the gauntlet of public opinion, the Bureau has encouraged the setting up of an irrigation district so that private ownership can accomplish the act of kicking wildlife out of the area in favor of creating more land for the growing of potatoes. Many of the natives have lost confidence in the Fish and Wildlife Service's ability to take a vigorous part in opposition to the aims of the Bureau of Reclamation. The Fish and Wildlife Service did not alert any of the conservation organizations when the Bureau stole a large chunk of the Tule Lake Refuge in the last homestead drawing.

Sage Grouse and Habitat: America's largest grouse, the sage hen, is being studied by the Utah Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit to determine how best to improve its habitat and increase the present remnant population in the face of intensified human use of its range. The study is financed by a special grant from the Wildlife Management Institute.

Special attention will be given to the effects of the reseeding of sagebrush lands to grasses. Study areas have been established on the famous "Pines Reseeding Project" of the Dixie National Forest near Panquitch, Utah. In pioneer days, when the sage grouse was abundant, grasses played an important part in its existence. Since then, heavy grazing, irrigation, and other human enterprises have materially reduced the amount of range available to the "cock of the plains." Only a handful of western states now has enough grouse to warrant more than a rigidly limited season on these large birds.

Another phase of the study will be a survey of the effects of the intensive predator and rodent control program of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on grouse populations within the reseeding areas.

715 S. Division Street, Barrington, Illinois

Spring Bird Study Courses

FOR THE THIRD YEAR, Mrs. Theron Wasson, of River Forest, Illinois, assisted by Mrs. John Shawvan, will offer a course in "Knowing Our Birds" during the spring months. Helpful for beginners or advanced students alike, the course is designed to make one learn to know our birds by sight and song, as well as to understand bird habits, habitats, migration and family relations.

The class meets every Thursday morning, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., from April 3rd to May 22nd, usually in River Forest. Each meeting includes a field trip to woods, prairie or swamp, and a lecture-workshop period in the Wasson home. Students are able to make an intensive study of Mrs. Wasson's collection of over 200 birdskins in plastic tubes. Work sheets, slides and charts are also used. Classes meet regardless of the weather. The course is limited to 25 members; the fee is $10.00. Advance registration is required; write to Mrs. Theron Wasson, 606 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest, Illinois, or telephone FOrest 9-7718.

Mrs. Wasson and Mrs. Shawvan have conducted the popular free course in bird study at the Morton Arboretum for the last six years. This class meets for 10 weeks and is limited to 50 members; it includes field trips about the Arboretum, as well as color slides and bird song records. Designed to help the working person, the course meets on Saturday mornings in the spring, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Members wishing to register should write to the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, early in March.

The Illinois Audubon Society will again provide leadership for Saturday and Sunday morning bird walks this spring in the Chicago area public parks. Announcements will appear shortly in the Chicago newspapers, or information may be obtained from the Chicago Park District.

Conservation Notes and News

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Burns Ditch Harbor Proposal: The Conservation Council devoted the entire program of its meeting on January 17 to consideration of preservation of the Indiana Dunes between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres. Mr. Floyd Swink, Dr. V. O. Graham, and Mr. Karl Schmidt were the principal speakers, but a number of persons participated in the discussion. There was much consideration of the financial problem involved in acquiring the area, and various suggestions were made. We believe these dunes can be purchased if there is enough interest by the public, although this involves much educational work. All readers of this article are urged to help in promoting the program.

The establishment of the Indiana Dunes State Park in 1923 was the result of an elaborate program over several years in which many persons participated. These included two Indiana Governors and two Indiana senators.

On October 30, 1916, there was a hearing in Chicago which lasted an entire day. It was attended by many prominent people including the head of the department of geology at the University of Chicago, Prof. T. C. Chamberlin, Professors Otis C. Caldwell and Henry C. Cowles of the department of botany, Mr. Abraham Flexner, secretary of the Board of Education of the City of New York, and Mr. Julius Rosenwald of Chicago. The director of the National Park Service, Mr. Stephen T. Mather, presided at this hearing, which was the result of a Congressional resolution introduced by an Indiana senator, Hon. Thomas Taggart. After the hearing, the Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior Hon. Franklin K. Lane, recommended that fifteen square miles of the dune region between Gary and Michigan City be purchased for a national park. Unfortunately, World War I diverted attention of Congress away from the project, and there was a difficulty about establishing a precedent for purchasing national park lands.

In the December number of the *Audubon Bulletin,* I stated that it was expected that the National Park Service would report in January, 1952, to the Bureau of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, on its recreational and natural history survey of the region. This report has been delayed because the army engineers are not ready to consider it. Meanwhile, it is desirable that letters be sent to either Mr. George F. Ingalls, regional director of recreation and land planning, who made the survey, or to Mr. Howard W. Baker, regional director of the National Park Service. Both men may be addressed at National Park Service, Omaha 2, Neb.

It is not clear at present just what kind of a preserve it would be most feasible to obtain and maintain. The National Park Service has no money to buy the land, and it is not certain that it would accept the area even though purchased privately. It might be better to try to obtain an extension of the present Indiana Dunes State Park. Of course there must be some agency to control and maintain it.

5716 S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago

Bird Watchers Wanted

Dr. Albert Wolfson, professor at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, would like to enlist the help of the members of the Illinois Audubon Society in making a count of white-throated sparrows and myrtle warblers during May. He is making this study in cooperation with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, which is making a migration census of these two species.

Birders scattered over the state of Wisconsin are pledged to make daily observations of this count in their vicinity in an effort to determine the relationship between weather, winds and time in the appearance of the birds, and also whether they appear suddenly throughout the state, or move in a steady flow from south to north. People who have kept records for a period of years, especially of trapped or banded birds, are particularly sought by Dr. Wolfson. He wants information about the fall migration also, and observations at this time are meager as far as reported results are concerned. Even sight records at intervals will be welcome.

Local bird clubs throughout the state of Illinois are urged to participate. Records of the Cahokia Nature League, for instance, or some other group in the south, would make interesting reading in comparison with the reports from Superior, Wisconsin. We hope to publish the eventual results of these surveys in the *Passenger Pigeon* (Wisconsin) as well as in the *Illinois Audubon Bulletin*. Dr. Wolfson is collecting the reports from this area and forwarding them to the Wisconsin group. Clubs or individuals wishing to participate are requested to write to Dr. Albert Wolfson, 2016 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois.

Book Reviews

"Birds of Montezuma and Tuzigoot," by Henry H. Collins Jr., illustrations by Roger Tory Peterson. Published by Southwestern Monuments Association, Box 2011 J, Santa Fe, N.M. Price 25 cents.

This 16-page booklet, including cover, is the first of a series planned by Mr. Collins for various national parks and monuments. It is directed toward the average park visitor with a potential but not yet developed interest in nature. The booklet is an introduction to the birds most likely to be seen in a particular park, each species being represented with either a color or black and white sketch by Peterson, a bit of history and general information about the bird, and field marks. Also included is a quiz section based on the text, a description of the park or monument area with tips on where particular birds may be found, and a check list of all birds reported in the area.

Mr. Collins, whose address is 136 Parkview Ave., Bronxville, N.Y., has done an excellent job on this project, covering two national monuments in Arizona, and it is to be hoped he will be able to do the same for many more areas. The seven postcard size Peterson paintings alone should more than recompense any park visitor for the nominal price asked.

John Bayless, 7200 S. Coles Ave., Chicago 49

Wildlife in Color: By Roger Tory Peterson, 1951. 192 pages; 450 full color illustrations by 18 artists. Sponsored by National Wildlife Federation. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2 Park Street, Boston 7, Mass.; $3.00. The color illustrations are from the famous Wildlife Stamps produced between the years 1939-1951, and offer an excellent opportunity for the stamp collector to have the entire series in one volume which covers trees, shrubs, mammals, birds, reptiles and butterflies.

The book is written in non-technical language and lacks detailed life histories. It should appeal especially to the newly initiated nature student who is usually confronted with the problem of where to start and how much to cover in studying wildlife. The text by Mr. Peterson is interesting for both young and old and extremely readable.

Charles W. Kossack, Barrington, Illinois

Life Members of the Society

Mrs. Roland Bosworth of Dundee, Illinois became a life member of the Illinois Audubon Society in 1951, bringing the number of such members back to seven. Since many of these individuals have made notable contributions to the work of the Society as authors, committee chairmen, directors or officers, it is fitting that we publish their names here, with the dates of their affiliation:

Dr. Alfred M. Bailey (1929)
Colorado Museum of Natural History
City Park, Denver 6, Colorado

Miss Esther Craigmile (1930)
(*Honorary Director*)
315 N. La Grange Road
La Grange, Illinois

Mrs. Roland I. Bosworth (1943)
P. O. Box #98
Dundee, Illinois

Mrs. Emmons Blaine (1929)
101 East Erie Street
Chicago 11, Illinois

Mrs. William Richardson (1931)
(*Honorary Vice-President*)
4318 Oakenwald Avenue
Chicago 15, Illinois

Mr. Herbert S. Ullmann (1944)
Union League Club
65 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago 4, Illinois

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Starrett (1950)
P. O. Box #306
Cos Cob, Connecticut

New Bird Check Card

The familiar folder, "Dates of Arrival of Spring Migrants," compiled by Edward R. Ford, Colin C. Sanborn and C. Blair Coursen, will soon be reprinted by Dr. H. K. Gloyd of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Out of print for several years, it will now be in the form of a card, about 4 by 6 inches, similar to the "Field Card of Birds," and the price will be the same: 75c per 100, or one cent each in smaller amounts. Orders can be placed through the Academy, Lincoln Park at Ogden Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$25.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

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ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(ORGANIZED IN 1897)

For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

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The President's Page

By HARRY R. SMITH

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES of the Illinois Audubon Society are the advancement of conservation and nature study, with particular emphasis on our native birds. Our membership in the Society indicates our approval of these objectives, but what are we doing as individual members to encourage sound conservation measures and intelligent nature study projects? Unfortunately, few of us are interested enough to think of them as our personal responsibility and give them the consideration we should. Each year we are asked to supply a dozen leaders for bird walks in the Chicago Park System, but it is difficult to get half this number. We express our indignation at the slaughter of migrating night hawks by the "sportsman" at Calumet Lake; we complain about Alaska Territory paying a bounty to the killers of the noble bald eagle and we scream at the threat of destruction of Dinosaur National Monument, but few of us make any definite effort to prevent such wanton acts.

Our common excuse is that we "do not have the time," but none of us is so busy that we could not take ten minutes to write an occasional letter. Our Board of Directors continually votes to have the Secretary write letters approving or protesting various projects when a dozen letters from individual members would be much more effective.

These individual expressions of our opinions do get results, whether they are sent to Congressmen, state legislators, or to newspapers. When a self-styled naturalist, known for his misinformation and his ridicule of amateur bird students, started a "nature" column in a newspaper, several of our members protested to the editor and the column had a short life. On the other hand, a splendid series of nature notes by Donald Culross Peattie appearing in a Chicago paper some years ago was discontinued for lack of interest. We would, therefore, be wise to write the *Chicago Tribune* and commend it for the instructive, educational articles it is now running under the title of "Watching the Birds." The author of this series, by the way, is Mrs. Anne Douglas Bayless, one of our Board of Directors.

When we see a picture of a brave gunner with the beautiful, beneficial red-tailed hawk he has killed, we should write our Conservation Department and inquire about the steps it is taking to prosecute for the illegal shooting. When we read of the continuous political pressure to plunder our national parks and forests, we should protest to our Congressmen and Senators.

Due to the interest of the voters in most of our neighboring states, the mourning dove has been placed on their protected list. It has been

definitely established that some of these birds are still nesting in our state after the first of September when the hunting season for them is opened. Regardless of our attitude toward the open season of this species, if we call ourselves conservationists, we surely must approve of delaying the opening date for at least two weeks. By expressing our opinion on the subject through letters to the governor, the Conservation Department and to our assemblymen, we will eventually get results.

Our letters should be brief and to the point, and it is not at all necessary for them to be formal. They can be written on scratch paper with a pencil, but it is most essential that we be sure of our facts in every statement we make. If we are among those who insist on advancing the alibi of "too busy" we can buy a dozen postcards and mail one as occasions arise when we wish to express approval or disapproval of movements directly affecting our wildlife or the habitats upon which it is dependent.

Our sincerity may well be questioned when we say we love birds or flowers and the other children of Mother Nature, if we do nothing for their preservation. It is our personal responsibility, and "it is later than we think!"

809 Michigan Avenue, Evanston, Illinois

The Purple Martins Need Your Help

THE PURPLE MARTINS which gather each fall at Montrose Beach on the Chicago lake front just before they leave for the south need protection — the kind that members of the Illinois Audubon Society can give. Some cruel and uninformed persons have been stoning and destroying these valuable birds as they roost in great flocks shortly before Labor Day in north Lincoln Park.

This fact has been called to the attention of the Board of Directors by Mrs. Genevieve Benson, who has acted as unofficial protector, warden and teacher during the gathering period of the martins.

The Society has written the Chicago Park District, some civic organizations, and various bird clubs in the city to obtain cooperation in the protection of these birds. The objective is to obtain the volunteer services of several interested bird lovers who would act as unofficial wardens for the Society and patrol the Montrose Beach area for one to two hours at least one evening a week during this period. The approach to anyone found stoning the birds would be simple — they would be told that they are destroying valuable song birds, that they are committing a federal offense, and that birds generally are of immense value to mankind. Here is an opportunity to enjoy the parks at sunset, to mix with people, to practice bird-watching and to teach others the value of our wildlife.

Organizations become most effective and useful, more important to their community and more widely known, by entering an area of struggle. If you have always wanted to do some work for the Society, protect the songbirds, and share your enthusiasm for birdwatching with others, here is your opportunity. You can contact Mrs. Benson at 4540 N. Magnolia Ave., Chicago 40, or myself for further information.

Raymond Mostek, 3345 N. Harding Ave.
Chicago 18, Illinois. Irving 8-5933

Breeding Birds of Jackson Park

By MARGARET M. NICE

JACKSON PARK, located in Chicago on Lake Michigan between 56th and 67th Streets and Stony Island Avenue, is a tract of 543 acres, a hundred of which are lagoons. Sixty years ago it consisted of swales and oak ridges, but was landscaped to serve as the site of the Columbian Exposition in 1893. Its chief trees are elms, cottonwoods, bur oaks, lindens, catalpas, willows, silver maples, white ash, crabapples and hawthorns. The largest lagoon has seven small islands thickly covered with high bush cranberry; these are inaccessible except by boat. Wooded Island, 2000 feet long by 400 feet wide, has many great trees, some at least 70 years old, and is planted with many shrubs—bush honeysuckle, high bush cranberry, wahoo, ninebark, nannyberry and many others.

In 1936 a bird sanctuary of 22 acres was set aside and fenced adjacent to this island, great thickets of berry-bearing bushes being planted and many waterfowl introduced, the most abundant being Canada geese and mallards. These became established and were a great attraction to visitors. In 1939-40 Dale Jenkins made a study of social hierarchy among the waterfowl, finding the pair of blue geese with young were the dominant individuals. After some years botulism developed, and in 1950 the geese were removed and the sanctuary abandoned.

"What is now known as Jackson Park," wrote Benjamin Gault in 1937, "before being landscaped the year or two preceding the World's Fair of 1893, was another good locality in which to find birds." I inquired of Mrs. Al Chase, Secretary of the Benjamin T. Gault Bird Club in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, whether any records of Mr. Gault's trips in this area could be found among his papers, but she was unable to locate any.

Almost all bird observers go to the park in spring for the migrants; a few visit it in the fall, but almost none have paid much attention to the nesting birds. Six ornithologists have kindly given me the benefit of their experiences in this area. Dr. Herbert L. Stoddard worked at the Field Museum, then located in Jackson Park, from 1913 to 1920. Mr. C. O. Decker and Dr. Alfred Lewy have kept some records from 1923 to the present. Mr. Seymour Levy banded birds and found many nests between 1938 and 1941, while James and Marjorie Decker (1949) made many trips to the park from 1948 to 1950. We came to Chicago in 1936, but until recently kept only scattered notes of what we found in the park. In 1949 I made 31 trips there from June through August, in 1950, 38 trips, but in 1951 only 13.

The combined records of the seven of us have given what seems a fairly complete list of the birds that have nested here during the last 40 years.

List of Summer Birds of Jackson Park

Key: ** = nest found. * = young recently out of nest seen. C. D. = Charles Decker. J. & M. D. = James and Marjorie Decker. S. L. = Seymour Levy. A. L. = Alfred Lewy. N. = M. M. Nice. H.S. = Herbert Stoddard.

** *Green Heron.* Nest and eggs about 1940. (A.L.). 3 nestlings banded July 5'41, 4 banded July 7'42 (S.L.). Young out of the nest seen in 1948, Sept. 2'50 (J. & M.D.).

** *Mallard.* Undoubtedly nested in the past; feral individuals nest here now. On May 11'49, one duck had gathered 26 small ducklings; she fiercely chased another mother and her brood of four. By May 24 this over-large family had dwindled to 17, by June 9 to 9.

** *Killdeer.* Nests on lake shore. Young banded in nest May 8'39 (S.L.). 4 eggs June 13'45 (N.). 2 young out of nest, '49 (A.L.).

** *Spotted Sandpiper.* Irregular nester on islands. Dr. R. M. Strong found one pair a season from about 1910-'14. Nest found 1938-41 (S.L.). Young out of nest seen (A.L.).

** *Mourning Dove.* Nesting on Wooded Island from at least 1944 on. Pair nest-hunting May 11'44; nest with 2 eggs June 26, young out of nest June 21, July 10, Sept. 15'49; nest with 2 eggs May 1, 2 young in nest Sept. 10, had left the next day '50; nest May 12, birds less common '51 (N.). Last songs heard Sept. 1'49; Aug. 9'50; Aug. 25'51 (N.).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. No proof of nesting. Recorded June 19-July 10'49; May 24, July 26-Aug. 19'50 (N.).

** *Black-billed Cuckoo.* Nest with eggs found in 1923 (A.L.).

Screech Owl. Present all year from '38-41 (S.L.); from '40-45 (A.L.).

Chimney Swift. Nesting in field house chimney '38 (S.L.).

** *Belted Kingfisher.* Nest with 3 eggs in side of dump, about 3 feet back from lake shore May 28'15 (H.S.). Nest with young about '45 (Sid Reichert, caretaker of Sanctuary). Present all year '49 (J. & M.D.).

** *Yellow-shafted Flicker.* Present from 1925 on (C.D., A.L.). 4 young banded in nest June 25'41 (S.L.). Young in nest July 8'47, July 1'48, July 3'49 (N.).

** *Red-headed Woodpecker.* Present all summer about 20 years ago (A.L.). Now an uncommon transient.

* *Downy Woodpecker.* A young bird following its father June 26'49 (N.).

** *Crested Flycatcher.* 3 young in nest banded July 5, 4 banded July 7'41 (S.L.). Present June 11'48, June 9-July 25'49, May 5- Aug. 3'50 (N.).

** *Phoebe.* Nest found '38-41 (S.L.).

** *Wood Pewee.* 4 young out of the nest Aug. 20'49 (Constance Nice). 2 young in nest July 26, left Aug. 5'50 (N.).

** *Tree Swallow.* Nest found '38-41 (S.L.).

** *Purple Martin.* Used to nest in martin house (A.L.). Nested '38-41 (S.L.).

* *Blue Jay.* No evidence of summering until Aug. 3'51, when Constance Nice discovered a pair in the park west of the Museum of Science and Industry with one full-grown, begging young.

** *House Wren.* Nest found 1938-41 (S.L.). Not recorded as nesting since then. Singing males June 9'49, Apr. 26-May 16'50 (N.).

** *Catbird.* Nest found '38-41 (S.L.); '45, '50 (A.L.). Not common.

** *Brown Thrasher.* Very common. Nest with 2 eggs May 15'40, 3 young banded in nest June 21'41 (S.L.). Nest with young July 1'48, young recently out of nest June 23, July 25'49; young with half grown tail Aug. 9'50 (N.).

** *Robin.* Abundant. Nest found Apr. 14'16 (H.S.). Nest with 4 eggs May 1'40 (S.L.). Young out of nest May 24. Nests June 21, July 2'49; building Apr. 30'50; young begging Aug. 3'51 (N.).

** *Wood Thrush.* One pair in the park next to Stony Island Avenue and 64th Place. Heard '49 (Constance Nice). Nest found '50 (J. & M.D.). Heard May 16'51 (N.).

** *Starling.* Mr. Charles Decker first recorded this species May 26'33, Mar. 28'36, Feb. 28'37. "They have wintered every year since 1938." Nests found '38-41 (S.L.). Nests June 4'50, May 13'51 (N.). Young out of nest June 1'48, May 26, 27, July 1, 10'49; June 4, July 18, 27'50; Aug. 5'51. Starlings seldom come to food thrown them except just before and after the young leave the nest: May 27'50, June 4'50 (N.).

** *Red-eyed Vireo.* Nest found '38-41 (S.L.). Nest with eggs June 18, with young June 20-23; nest being built June 20; young out of the nest being fed by parents Sept. 1'49; full-grown young with parent Aug. 3'51 (N.).

** *Warbling Vireo.* Nests found '38-41 (S.L.), '49, '50 (A.L.). Present all summer '45 (C.D.). Singing males recorded May 24, 27, 28, July 1, 3'49; May 4-16'50 (N.).

** *Yellow Warbler.* A brood successfully reared in a rosebush in 1899 despite curious visitors (Clark '99) Dr. Lewy says it was formerly abundant. Nest found '38-41 (S.L.) Now uncommon transient.

** *House Sparrow.* Abundant from at least 1913 nesting under eaves of Japanese tea houses (H.S.). Young out of nest being fed as late as Aug. 19, Sept. 2-7'51 (N.).

** *Redwinged Blackbird.* Nest found about 1930 in cattails (A.L.). Uncommon transient now.

** *Baltimore Oriole.* Nest found 1947 (A.L.).

** *Bronzed Grackle.* Abundant summer resident. Nests found Apr. 18'16 (H.S.); '25-51 (C.D., A.L.); '38-41 (S.L.). Most of the nests are in the thick growth of highbush cranberry on the small islands. On or near Wooded Island — nest nearly finished Apr. 4, young out of nest May 27 and June 18, young begging Aug. 19'49; 4 nests May 11, 2 nests May 21, 4 young 1 day old May 24, still in nest June 6, full grown young being fed July 13, 18, 26, 27, Aug. 2'50; Aug. 5'51 (N.). Grackles were banded by Seymour Levy in '38-40; occasional banded individuals have been seen as late as Apr. 17'51, but none in 1952. Aug. 5'51, an adult male was pecking at an orange skin and going through the motions of "anting" his breast and under his wings. Another bird approached and the first held his bill straight up and then puffed out with a *cher-keee;* neverthe-

less the newcomer drove him off and himself started to "ant", but was driven away by a grey squirrel.

* *Cowbird.* Not common. Seen in summer '38-41 (S.L.). First seen by us in summer in '49 (Nice '50); young out of the nest being fed by cardinals July 31'50 (N.).

** *Cardinal.* First established as a breeding bird in Lincoln Park in 1936 (Clark and Nice '50:33). First recorded in Jackson Park Mar. 23'24 and Apr. 28'33 by Mr. Charles Decker. First individual seen by us a female in winter of '37-38. Nest with 3 young July 1; grown young begging throughout Aug., 4 families Sept. 9, 11, one family Sept. 26'49; young begging June 13, Aug. 9; 3 families Sept. 3, one Sept. 24'50 (N.).

** *Song Sparrow.* Nest found in cattails about 1930; a visitor was feeding bread to the young. (A.L.). Now a transient only.

There are 35 species in the list. Nests with eggs or young have been found of 29 species; young recently out of the nest seen of three additional species. Two others, screech owl and chimney swift, have undoubtedly nested, while the yellow-billed cuckoo may have done so. The personal list of the Nices includes nests found of 12 species, young recently out of the nest of three more, and the presence recorded in summer of 12 additional species, a total of 27. We are indebted to our friends for records of nesting of 19 species.

Many of the birds that undoubtedly bred in this region before it was landscaped have vanished from the area. Dr. Stoddard writes me that robins, grackles, and house sparrows were common from 1913 to 1920. "I think that if many more species had been nesting in the park at that time I would have mentioned them in my notes." Redwings and song sparrows used to nest in beds of cattails, but these were cleared out in 1936. There are early records — one in the twenties — of black-billed cuckoo and red-headed woodpeckers breeding, and in the early forties of yellow warbler, house wren, screech owl and purple martin nesting. The owls left when their hollow tree was cut down, the martins when their box was moved under the trees. Martins could undoubtedly be brought back if a house were erected for them out in the open.

Recent additions seem to be the mourning dove, wood thrush and blue jay. Cardinals and starlings have appeared as breeding birds within the last 25 years.

Lincoln Park, 1189 acres on the lake shore some ten miles north of Jackson Park, has a list of 31 breeding species (Clark and Nice 1950:34). (To the list as published should be added the redbellied woodpecker, *Centurus carolinsis,* a pair of which was seen coming out of a hole in July by H. K. Coale (Ridgway 1889:386). Most of the species are the same for the two parks. For Lincoln Park only, we have records of yellow-billed cuckoo, red-bellied woodpecker, orchard oriole, red-eyed towhee and chipping sparrow. For Jackson Park only, we have records for green heron, black-billed cuckoo, chimney swift, kingfisher, phoebe, tree swallow and wood thrush.

It is interesting to note which species learn to associate man with

food. In Jackson Park domestic pigeons, house sparrows and grackles are the most enthusiastic pensioners. Brown thrashers soon learn to come for bread and peanuts and cardinals do so to some extent. Starlings very seldom join the group except when hard pressed by demands from nearly grown young. Robins keep their independence.

In other parks in this country, tufted titmice and blue jays shared our lunch in Boyle's Park near Little Rock, Arkansas, and the same was true of California jays in Griffith Park near Los Angeles and Steller's jays in the Yosemite. Wild mourning doves came to peanuts thrown to them in the San Diego Zoo.

In 1949, when I was watching red-eyed vireos from June 18 to July 3, I made a rather tentative nesting census of Wooded Island: green heron, 1 pair; mourning dove, 6 pairs; flicker, 3; wood pewee, 1; brown thrasher, 3; catbird, 1; robin, 10?; starling, 8?; red-eyed vireo, 1; house sparrow, 3; cowbird, 2; grackle, 3; cardinal, 5. 13 species, 47 pairs more or less on the 18 acres, averaging 2.6 pairs to the acre.

This list of breeding birds for Jackson Park during the last 40 years seems fairly adequate, largely due to the observations of our friends, particularly the intensive work of Seymour Levy from 1938 to 1941 and the many records of Dr. Lewy; as well as to our own field work in 1949 and 1950. Nevertheless, in many respects the results are meager. If we had all taken full notes at each visit of the birds present, of the birds singing, of the contents of each nest found, of the behavior of adults and young, what a wealth of interesting, valuable material we could have accumulated!

We are fortunate in Chicago in the fact that some of our parks are attractive to birds throughout the year. We need not neglect the parks in summer for they offer rich opportunities for study of our nesting birds. For example, I have been able to make partial nest studies of red-eyed vireo and wood pewee on the Wooded Island. But we must be on our guard to protect the trees and shrubbery from destruction by those who have charge of them.

5725 Harper Ave., Chicago, Illinois

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New Directors Elected

FOUR NEW MEMBERS have recently been added to the Board of Directors of the Illinois Audubon Society. Mr. Francis C. Whitehead, 780 Foxdale Avenue, Winnetka, was elected by vote of the officers and directors at the

March meeting of the board, and is taking an active part in the work of the membership committee.

The following members were elected to the board at the annual meeting of the Society on May 17, 1952: Mrs. Walter S. Huxford, 3027 Thayer Street, Evanston; Mrs. Thure Waller, 6506 N. Maplewood Avenue, Chicago 45; and Mr. Franklin McVey, 5845 N. Kingsdale Avenue, Chicago 30. Mrs. Huxford and Mrs. Waller have given considerable time recently to volunteer work for the Society. Mr. McVey is a teacher, amateur naturalist and lecturer who illustrates his wildlife lectures with his own movies. These new directors are actively interested in the study and protection of birds, and are expected to make valuable contributions to the work of the Society.

The Board of Directors accepted with regret the resignation of Mr. Theodore Nork, who has been a director for several years. He has found that the pressure of a new position which requires frequent out-of-town business trips prevents him from participating regularly in the affairs of the Society. He is to be commended for the fine service he has given, and we wish him success in in his new work.



Book Reviews

Wildfowling in the Mississippi Flyway. Contributed by twenty authors, edited by Eugene V. Connett. D. Van Nostrand Company, Toronto, New York and London, 1952. 387 pages, 206 illustrations, $6.00.

The territory covered by the book includes three Canadian provinces and thirteen states, describing the breeding grounds and migration routes principally of ducks and geese, although prairie chicken, cranes, Wilson's snipe, etc. come in for mention. Historically the book covers the period when old muskets were reamed out or used "as is" for shotguns (some of them 4 bore), and bag limits were unknown. The supply of birds, like our forests, seemed inexhaustible. Probably more birds were slaughtered than could possibly be carried away or used. It is hard to believe that the numbers of birds reported taken with the clumsy muzzle loaders may be accurate.

The cover states that "The gunner will find a comprehensive description of the successful methods used today in bagging a proper share of geese and ducks, from the Arctic to the Gulf," but it also states, "No one can read this book without gaining a better picture of one of the most important wildlife resources on our continent, and the way in which it has been wasted, is now being preserved, and what must be accomplished in the future to perpetuate it."

Of special interest to us is the chapter on Illinois, written by Kenneth H. Smith, going back in his own family history 100 years, and coming up through his boyhood to date, describing the Illinois of old from the naturalist's and hunter's standpoint. Even those of us who hunt only with binoculars will have some nostalgic stirrings.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

Conservation Notes

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Burns Ditch Harbor Proposal. Work is in progress on publicity concerning the importance of preserving the Indiana Dunes still not occupied by residences, industry, and the state park. An organization is being developed to awaken public interest in this project. Much depends on the amount of such interest that can be aroused. The people who have land to sell or other persons who hope to make money by the development of industry in this region are, of course, aggressive in their opposition to the preservation of this nature area.

Illinois Beach State Park. The Governor's Advisory Natural History Committee for Illinois Beach State Park has had frequent meetings recently, and the Illinois Dunes Preservation Association has also been at work. The Advisory Committee is integrated with the Association. The most pressing need is the acquirement of certain parcels of land which are needed to protect the sanctuary character of the south portion and to provide for safer roads to the park. The high level of Lake Michigan and recent storms have created problems. A subject that has received much attention is the provision for recreation without damage to the sanctuary character of that portion of the park south of the picnic and beach-house area. It is hoped that a naturalist may be provided at the park to conduct tours and give information on the natural history features of the dunes. We are happy to say that the state officials connected with the park project are sympathetic and cooperative. The chief problem is getting money to acquire additional land.

Theodore Roosevelt Island. An island in the Potomac River between Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia, was purchased a number of years ago by the Roosevelt Memorial Association at a cost of $384,000.00. It was accepted by Congress as a national memorial sanctuary in honor of that great lover of birds and nature in general, Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States. The deed was transferred to President Herbert Hoover in a White House ceremony in 1933. This island has ninety acres of unspoiled wilderness.

The act of Congress in accepting the gift included the following words: "Said island shall hereafter be known as Roosevelt Island and shall be maintained and administered as a natural park for the recreation and enjoyment of the public: *Provided* that no general plan for the development of the island be adopted without the approval of the Roosevelt Memorial Association, and that as long as the association remains in existence, no development, inconsistent with the plan, be executed without the association's consent."

The leading American architect, Frederick Lee Olmsted, spoke of the project as follows: "Covering most of the island, and constituting its dominant landscape feature, there should be developed steadily and pro-

gressively through the years and centuries to come, a real forest, closely similar to the natural primeval forests which once covered this and others of the Potomac river islands". The Association adopted Mr. Olmsted's ideas and engaged him to draft the plans.

Now the highway planners for the District of Columbia plan a bridge between Washington and Arlington over Roosevelt Island, which would ruin it as a sanctuary. The island was purchased with funds contributed by people living in every state of the Union, in Alaska, Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, and the Panama Canal Zone.

Protests against this plan to invade the island should be sent to Brigadier General Bernard L. Robinson, Engineer Commissioner, Municipal Bldg., Washington, D.C. It is desirable that copies of protests be sent to the Secretary of the Roosevelt Memorial Association, Mr. Hermann Hagedorn, 28 East 20th Street, New York 3, N.Y., to be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on the District at an appropriate time.

5716 S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago

A Quiz on Owls

By ANNA C. AMES

1. What owl is found in nearly the whole world except Australia?
2. Which is the only owl to inhabit the treeless plains and deserts of the West?
3. Which is the smallest of the owls in eastern North America?
4. Which is the most proficient hooter among the owls?
5. What bird will take the place of a cat as a mouse-catcher about farm homes?
6. Which is the only large North American owl that has conspicuous "horns" or tufts of feathers on the head?
7. Which is the only owl that is almost entirely diurnal in its habits?
8. What small owls are entirely dependent upon the presence of the giant cactus (saguaro)?
9. Which is the only small owl of the North with conspicuous eartufts?
10. What birds have pleasing songs referred to as "water-dripping?"
11. What owl is said to take its prey "always while in motion, by a swift, darting flight, sinking its long, curved talons to the vitals as it strikes?"
12. Which is the only owl that nests regularly on the surface of the ground in marshy regions?
13. Which is the largest of the North American owls in appearance and in measurements, though not in weight?
14. What bird sings a courtship song like the slow tolling of a soft but high-pitched bell?
15. What species of owl destroys many insectivorous birds?
16. What owl has been called the "tiger of the air" and "the evil genius of the woods?"

Authorities for Quiz on Owls

1. T. G. Pearson, C. S. and H. H. Brimley: *Birds of North Carolina*, p. 204.
2. *Birds of America*, Part 2, p. 118.
3. Thomas S. Roberts: *Bird Portraits in Color*, text facing Plate 45.
4. *Birds of America*, Part 2, p. 104.
5. Thomas S. Roberts: *Ibid.*, text for Plate 43. Also Forbush and May's *Natural History of Birds of Eastern North America*, p. 261.
6. Thomas S. Roberts: *Ibid.*, text facing Plate 44.
7. *Ibid.*, text facing Plate 45.
8. Gussie Thomas Smith — *Birds of the Arizona Desert*, p. 16. Also B. S. Swarth — *Birds of the Saguaro National Monument.*
9. E. H. Forbush and J. B. May: *Ibid.*, p. 261.
10. Thomas S. Roberts: *Birds of Minnesota*, Vol. 1, p. 636. *Birds of America*, Part 2, p. 107.
11. Thomas S. Roberts: *Birds of Minnesota*, 1, p. 613.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 629.
13. *Ibid.*, p. 624 & p. 625.
14. *Ibid.*, p. 633 & p. 628.
15. *Ibid.*, p. 605.
16. *Ibid.*, p. 608.

(*See page 16 for answers*)

929 Brummel Street, Evanston, Illinois

Audubon Lectures for 1952-53

An interesting series of "Audubon Screen Tours" is promised for the coming lecture season. Study of attendance records for the series just past showed that the evening lecture had the poorest turnout. Accordingly, the Directors have arranged to present all of the new talks on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

The speakers will include some newcomers and some of the old favorites, and the subjects will cover the whole gamut of wildlife. As before, lectures will be held in the Simpson Theater of the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois, at 2:00 or 2:30 p.m. Announcement folders will be mailed to all members of the Society this fall. Here is the list:

Afternoon Audubon Screen Tours

October 26, 1952 (Sunday): Laurel Reynolds on "Western Discovery."
January 3, 1953 (Saturday): Howard Cleaves on "Animals Unaware."
February 28 (Saturday): Walter H. Shackleton on "Oddities in Nature."
March 22 (Sunday): Robert C. Hermes on "Bonaventure Diary."
April 12 (Sunday): Alexander Sprunt, Jr. on "From Coast to Crest."

From Our Window

By F. J. Freeman

A long time ago, as the life of popular music is measured, there was a song about a man who would climb the highest mountain and swim the deepest river to find his love. I do not remember how the words went, but they gave promise of a lot of effort to find this unique "you". Yet she could not have been as hard to win as the song implied. In fact, if the singer had been content to dawdle on the brink of the aforesaid river, his heart-throb would have probably leaped down that mountain and swam that river herself. It would have saved him a lot of wear and tear.

From the adventures of some ornithologists, it seems that the finest experiences are had in far-away places at untimely seasons of travel or unearthly hours of arising. Stay-at-homes who confine their bird-watching to the back yard feeder sigh for such sights and sounds as come to the ornithologist who goes to any extremes to attain his ends. Such sighing is needless "vanity and vexation of spirit." Some very fine ornithological work has been done in back yards. Mrs. Margaret M. Nice has attained international ornithological fame for her study of the life history of song sparrows in her back yard. Ada Clapham Govan, who wrote "Wings at My Window," had ornithologists beating a path to her door because of the outstanding work she was doing in the banding of birds at her back yard feeder.

While no such fame has attended the back yard watching of the writer of this article, we have occasionally been able to glean a bit of gold from the dross of sparrows, starlings and pigeons that live off our generosity. We recall a snowy day on the fourth of February when a cardinal stuffed himself at our feeder while awaiting in the tree around him were half a dozen sparrows, a junco, two blue jays and two chickadees. It looked like a picture of the successful bird feeder, and was very pretty, with snow flakes drifting down.

Another memory was the peculiar defense behavior of a catbird which we observed several times. This catbird had a nest somewhere off the lot but dearly loved to feed from our suet stick. A pair of blue jays brought their young into the yard, took over the maple tree from which the suet stick hung, and drove away all other birds. When they caught the catbird at the suet stick they flew at him, and as a defense, he flew away as though he were a fledgling struggling from its nest. He fluttered with half-open wings, sinking rapidly to the ground and then just gaining the lower branches of the apple tree across the garden. There he paused for a moment, flitted his tail, mewed saucily and flew off toward his nesting area in an adult manner. It reminded me of a puppy at the mercy of a strange dog offering as its sole defense the fact that it was only a puppy.

One of the most unusual things my wife and I saw from our window one February was a pair of cardinals in the sugar maple tree above the feeder. Although the day was cold and wintry, the female cardinal carried on as though it were spring. She squatted down and fluttered,

begging for a seed as birds do when they are "that way" about each other. Then she assumed an upright position and swayed slowly — leaning far over — from side to side six or eight times. At the end of each sway, she would hold the pose a moment before she returned. In the meantime her tail was spread, wings slightly drooped and crest raised displaying to the full the red in her plumage. And she was singing a whisper song — a whistled chew-chew-chew.

In the meantime, the male appeared alert and interested, looking down into the feeder for a seed to give her, as is part of the courtship. Not seeing any, or losing interest, he flew off and she followed. Here was a bird who knew what the score was. No catching him swimming rivers and climbing mountains!

The moral of this story is, if you cannot go to the mountains, let the mountains come to you, and out of stay-at-home bird watching may come nuggets of observations — beautiful, unique and valuable.

320 N. Elm Street, Itasca, Illinois

Book Reviews

"Arizona and Its Bird Life", by Herbert Brandt. 1951, 708 pages; 21 color plates, 41 photographs and sketches; published privately by the Bird Research Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio. Price $15.00.

If only a friend could have counseled the author thus: You have excellent, fascinating material and a sound plan of presentation, BUT . . .", he might have turned out a book of unalloyed delight. That word "but" implies a multitude of literary faults which detract from an otherwise enjoyable volume.

The book is full of important data as the result of observations through ten thousand square miles of southeastern Arizona in which Mr. Brandt has worked. Names, numbers, dates and actions of birds watched are specific and accurate. Descriptions of eggs and nests, their size, composition and color are painstakingly exact. And at all times there is an ecological integration of his discoveries backed by a knowledge of the country's history and land-use.

Mr. Brandt divides his book into six sections: The first is an introduction, including a chapter on the "Vicissitudes of Arizona Weather" and another on the "Life Areas of Southeastern Arizona" which includes a chart showing a cross-section of an idealized topography from mountain top to desert.

The second section deals with the desert. Samples of the chapter headings are: "What is Desert?", "Afield with the Thrashers," "Giant Cactus Parks," and "Birding Along the Rillito."

Section three covers the grasslands, with a concluding chapter on the Fort Huachuca Reservation. The foothills are treated in the fourth section, and the mountains in the fifth. The last section lists in more detail, unless otherwise treated in the body of the book, the records of birds breeding in southeastern Arizona.

The book is illustrated with beautifully reproduced color plates, black and white photographs, and ink sketches by such artists as Allen Brooks, George Miksch Sutton, Roger Tory Peterson, Karl H. Maslowski and others. The end paper is a helpful map of the area explored.

The reader cannot fail to be impressed with Mr. Brandt's thoroughness. If he mentions any bird, tree or date, he does it with precision. If he speaks of a horned lark, it is a Chihuahua or Scorched Horned Lark, not just a plain ambiguous horned lark.

Mr. Brandt's habit of naming subspecies causes those of us who rely on binoculars and a pocket field guide for our identifications a good deal of index-searching to find what we are reading about. Whereas we, with a Peterson's *Western Bird Guide*, would be satisfied to identify a bird as a California Woodpecker, Brandt identifies it as a Mearn's Woodpecker.

This technical obscurity is puzzling enough to the amateur, but his literary faults are alarming. His style is exceedingly flowery and in a highly ecstatic key. Alliterating seems to be his particular delight, "simple samples" of which are — "bulky barracks boldly built", and "what exciting avian adventures that mighty mountain mansion might offer to one fortunate enough to penetrate its vastness!" His florid style is replete with such phrases as "noble arcade of delight," "thrilling message of exotic rarity to my ear," "our ever happy, boisterous friend, the Canyon Wren." Sometimes it is hard to see the birds for the words.

However, if you are an ardent birder who stops at nothing, you will have the stamina to wend your weary way through peaks of purple prose and find the struggle well worth while. If you plan to go into Arizona birding, you will find that this book will instruct, inspire and guide you. If you have been there, it will make your visit more vivid and significant.

F. J. Freeman, Itasca, Ill.

Birds of an Iowa Dooryard, by Althea R. Sherman, 1952. Edited by Fred J. Pierce. Christopher, Boston. 270 pp, $3.75. Althea Sherman published from 1910 to 1913 four notable life history articles — on the flicker, sparrow hawk, screech owl and ruby-throated hummingird, but most of the results of her thirty-five years of intensive observation she reserved for a book. Unfortunately, the task was too great and she died before its completion. A woman of originality, imagination, and clear thinking, of tremendous vitality and determination, she made contributions of fundamental importance to ornithology.

Mr. Pierce has reprinted seven of her most valuable published articles and presented eleven new chapters on the house wren, phoebe, chimney swift, catbird and others. There are photographs of Miss Sherman and of the tower she built for the chimney swifts, as well as seven of her own charming drawings of birds. This is a book to appeal to all people interested in birds with its vivid, outspoken style and its accurate records of the life of nesting birds.

Margaret M. Nice, 5725 Harper Avenue, Chicago

Screen Tours in Review

LOOKING BACK over the Audubon Lectures for the past season, we find that the scenes remembered most fall into two classes: pictures of birds, and pictures of exotic animal life of other types. Like most birders, we found the ornithological records the most absorbing, but the views of insect, reptile and marine life were rewarding also.

All of nature is inter-related; the swarming of insects means the coming of the swallows; when the ruby-throat buzzes over the hill, we know that nectar is in the flowers; when ice crystals glitter at the river's edge, we see vees of geese streaming across the autumn sky. Adding one more facet to our knowledge of the world brightens the luster of all the facets we already hold.

And so the Audubon Screen Tours served to round out our understanding of the natural beauty of this earth. **Fran William Hall**, the first lecturer, showed the sights of "The Four Corners," that unique area where four Western states meet. An outstanding photographer, he displayed his technical skill with portraits of unusual insects and reptiles. National parks and monuments of four states passed in his camera review.

In "Underwater Kingdom," **Mrs. Lucie Palmer** showed her talent for sketching fish, then explained how she and her husband recorded the mysteries of oceanic life with their camera. The pictures were amusing, yet revealed phases of animal life one would never see in an ordinary Middlewestern lifetime.

Bert Harwell, always a great favorite, brought out a record crowd. He first performed an incredible number of accurate birdsongs, then presented his colorful movie on "Canada East." The photographs of nesting birds were exceptional, but the most striking scenes were those of the gannets dive-bombing headlong into the ocean from the top of their rocky nesting cliff.

Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill related his vain search for the summer home of the whooping crane before taking us on his "Athabaska Sojourn." He showed life in the pine-bound northern wilderness at its best — scenes that only a few hardy travelers are privileged to view at first hand.

"Wildlife at Your Doorstep" gave **Howard L. Orians** a chance to prove what many of us have already begun to believe: that with a little patience and ingenuity, one can study birds, animals and all nature in his own back yard. The pictures were doubly interesting because they were made here in our own Middle West.

Personally, we enjoyed these Screen Tours, and wished there could be more of them. Didn't you?

4835 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago 39

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Junior Wildlife Management Award

By Vote of the Board of Directors, the Illinois Audubon Society has established an award for junior members for a report on the practical application of sound wildlife management policies. The report should describe results obtained by the candidate's personal efforts.

The purpose of the award is to stimulate initiative, originality, ingenuity and performance in the field of wildlife management and conservation by wildlife students of the younger generation. This type of award was chosen after the decision that too often a thesis on "Conservation" has resulted in good intentions, but no actual achievement.

Any junior member of the Society or child of a member in good standing is qualified to apply for this award. The applicant must not be 18 or more years of age as of December 31, (the closing date) of the yearly contest, and should not have previously attended a state-sponsored conservation or outdoors school.

The award shall cover the cost of one week's attendance at a conservation school picked by the judges. The judges' decision shall be final in all cases. If the directors so choose, additional awards of a lesser nature may be distributed for other activities of outstanding merit.

The report will be judged on the following points, with their respective values:

Motive which stimulated action	35
Physical evidence and application of action	25
Results of the work performed	20
Contributing results	15
Presentation of report	5

The report shall be submitted in triplicate, on 8½" x 11" white paper, typed on 1 side, double spaced with 1 inch margins. Title, name, address and date of birth are to be typed on a separate sheet. All reports will become the property of the Society. Length of report should not exceed 1000 words.

Winners will be announced at the annual spring meeting and published in the June issue of the *Bulletin*.

Send reports to Charles W. Kossack, 715 Division Street, Barrington, Illinois.

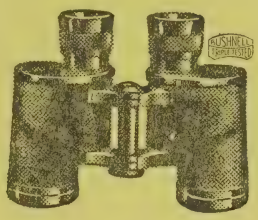
Answers to Quiz on Owls

1. Short-eared owl
2. Burrowing owl
3. Saw-whet or Acadian owl
4. Barred owl
5. Barn owl
6. Great horned owl
7. Hawk owl
8. Elf owl and Mexican screech owl
9. Screech owl
10. Saw-whet owl and Richardson's owl
11. Snowy owl
12. Short-eared or Marsh owl
13. Great gray owl
14. Richardson's owl
15. Screech owl
16. Great horned owl

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Golden Nature Guide Books. A series of nature guides, pocket size, for children and beginners. We have the following volumes: Birds; Wild Flowers; Insects; Stars. $1.00 each.

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$25.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 83 *September, 1952*

Natural History

THE
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(ORGANIZED IN 1897)

For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

Telephone WAbash 2-9410

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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

Published Quarterly by the

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE SHORE DRIVE, CHICAGO 5, ILL.

Number 83 *September, 1952*

The Annual Meeting

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY held its first annual meeting since World War II. on Saturday, May 17, 1952, at the Chicago Academy of Sciences, 2001 North Clark Street, Chicago. The meeting was held jointly with the Inland Bird Banding Association. Fifty-three members and friends of the two organizations registered, and thirty-nine attended the dinner at the North Park Hotel.

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The officers presented their reports of the year's work. Mr. Downing moved that an outside auditing organization be appointed to review the financial record of the Society once a year. The motion was carried. Mr. Helmer's financial report follows.

Mr. Kossack announced a Wildlife Management Award for the junior member who conducts the most worth-while practical conservation project in 1952-53, the first prize to be enrollment in the one-week Conservation Department Training Camp Center at Lake Villa next summer.

Mr. Lobik, editor of the *Bulletin*, outlined the history of the *Bulletin* and spoke of Mr. Decker's many years as editor. He asked for an expression of opinion on the quantity of conservation material it contains—whether more is wanted, or less; and whether more book reviews would be of interest. He asked for more articles on long-term observations of species, and descriptions of good birding areas throughout the state. Mr. Wilm remarked from the floor that he would like to see listings and descriptions of wildlife refuges, and reports on threatened species and what is being done to save them.

Mr. Lenz, chairman of the Membership Committee, said that we acquired 60 new members this year, including 3 contributing members. Eleven new members came from outside the Chicago area. Mr. Smith added that the 60 new members are not a net gain. We lost almost as many. Mr. Whitehead is following up those who dropped out in an effort to persuade them to rejoin.

Mr. Lenz, chairman of the Nominating Committee, proposed as new board members Mrs. Walter Huxford of Evanston, former president of the Evanston Bird Club, and Mrs. Ruth Dahly Waller. From the floor, Mr. Lobik nominated Mr. Frank McVey. Mr. Downing moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for the three nominees, and they were so elected.

An interesting program of papers, colored moving pictures and slides followed the reports of the officers. (See below.)

Respectfully submitted,

Janet H. Zimmerman, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

for ten months of the current fiscal year,
July 1, 1951 to April 30, 1952

Operating Account, balance July 1		$ 263.16
Membership dues received	$ 884.00	
Members' donations for Screen Tours	248.50	
Investment income, interest and dividends	676.66	
Sales of books and *Bulletins*	213.86	
Sales of binoculars	244.80	2267.82
		2530.98
Printing and mailing of three *Bulletins*	859.58	
General expense items	171.09	
Cost of Screen Tour programs	451.09	
Cost of books purchased	93.72	
Cost of binoculars sold	170.45	
Cost of two binoculars on hand	81.95	1827.88
		703.10
Transferred to the Investment Account		297.56
Balance, April 30, 1952		405.54

Investment Account. We were most fortunate, during the year, in receiving a bequest from the estate of Anna D. Holmquist amounting to $6,741.87, increasing the current value of the investment account to approximately $21,800.00 and the annual investment income to about $835.00. The securities held in the account are distributed approximately 40% in U. S. Government obligations, 30% in corporate bonds and preferred stocks and 30% in common stocks. In accordance with the laws under which the Society is incorporated, only the income from the Investment Account may be used to pay the expenses of the Society; the fund itself may not be used for this purpose. Hence the Directors are especially grateful for the generous donations made by members and friends to pay for the Screen Tours.

Respectfully submitted, *John Helmer, Treasurer*

Program of the Annual Meeting

After the business portion of the Annual Meeting was concluded, the members were treated to a fine program of lectures and pictures arranged by Vice-President Paul Downing. First was a color movie, "Birds in the Hand," by Mr. Harold Wilson of Ephraim, Wisconsin, President of the Inland Bird-Banding Association. He showed some of the results and experiences gained by many years of banding gulls and shore birds.

Mrs. Pauline Esdale, a former director of the Illinois Audubon Society, followed with "Bird Neighbors," a series of bird imitations with musical accompaniment. Her reproduction of the songs of our native birds was remarkable; no one realized before that we have such a wealth of talent in our own membership.

Dr. Harlow B. Mills, Chief of the Illinois State Natural History Survey at Urbana, spoke on "Research and Our Wildlife Assets." With the aid of maps and charts, he explained some of the work being carried

out by the Survey, and pointed out a few results of previous research.

A brief intermission followed, and then Mr. Edward Prins of Racine, Wisconsin, presented "Shore Birds," a series of color slides of birds taken on beach and swamp over a period of years with an extreme telephoto lens. Although many of his subjects are notably shy birds, he was able to obtain close-ups of high quality.

Vice-President Charles Kossack read a paper on "Notes on Conservation Activities," outlining the need for greater sincerity and effort in the field of conservation work.

Mr. Joseph J. Hickey of the University of Wisconsin, author of *A Guide to Bird Watching,* concluded the afternoon session with a talk on "The Migration of Banded Wisconsin Waterfowl." His maps of the returns from ducks and geese banded in Wisconsin revealed interesting patterns of bird migration.

The Society then surrendered the hall to the Inland Bird Banding Association, which held its business meeting and annual election. Mr. Karl Bartel, long a member of Illinois Audubon, was elected president of the Bird Banders for the coming year. Members and friends of the two organizations adjourned across the street to the North Park Hotel for a banquet dinner. In the evening, again at the Academy, Dr. Davies Lazear of Winnetka presented "Color on the Wing," a 16-mm Kodachrome motion picture of birds at his feeding station and near his home.

The next day (Sunday, May 18), at 9:00 a. m., the Society met on the lake front at Waukegan, Illinois for a field trip. The Chicago Ornithological Society supplied field leaders, headed by Albert Campbell, Theodore Nork, Mrs. Amy Baldwin, and others. It was a sunny, cool spring morning, warming up later in the day. About 100 people attended. After observing water birds from the pier, the group drove to the Highline Slough to see swamp birds, then to Milburn Slough to find the yellow-headed blackbird, and finally to Illinois Beach State Park to spend the rest of the day in scrub oak woods, swamps, and sand dunes. No official report on species observed was submitted, but the list of birds totalled over 100.

4835 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago 39

Rare Jay in Highland Park

A BLACK-HEADED JAY, *Cyanocitta stelleri annectens,* subspecies of the Steller's Jay, was reported in Highland Park, Illinois, early in July. Paul Downing trapped the bird, and its identity was verified by Dr. Austin L. Rand, curator of birds at the Chicago Museum of Natural History. This is the only record of this subspecies in Illinois; it is usually found in Montana. The Steller's Jay, normally a resident of the Rocky Mountain states, strays into this area at rare intervals.

Mr. Downing released the bird after banding, and he reports that it is still to be seen in Highland Park, associating with other jays (our common blue variety) and visiting back yard feeding stations. If you should travel to this town on the North Shore near Lake Michigan, and happen to see a bird with the body of jay and a head like a crow, do not be alarmed. Many members have already made a special trip in order to add the bird to their life list.

A Bird in the Hand

By Harry R. Smith

When I Started banding activities three years ago, I was surprised at the different appearance of a bird in the hand from one seen through binoculars. My banding experience is limited, but the fact that I am such a novice probably makes me more aware of some characteristics of birds than if I had banded thousands, as have Karl Bartel, Alfred Reuss and other members.

I had always supposed it would be easier to identify any species by close examination than by observation in the field, but in the beginning of my trapping I found that this was not always true. There were occasions when I wished that I might have a bird perched at some distance, so that I might observe it through my glasses. As a matter of fact, in two instances I stepped back from trapped birds and attempted to identify them through binoculars, but this was unsuccesful because of their activity.

I spoke of this to Paul Downing, who has trapped an average of almost 1000 birds a year for the past seventeen years, and readily recognizes each species as he bands it. I was astonished, albeit encouraged, when he told me that he frequently has difficulty with field identifications when other observers are apparently having no trouble. This is a situation difficult to explain; at times I cannot analyze my own reactions. However, I cite the olive-backed thrush as an example of my early confusion and the different technique in identifying by close examination.

I had always concentrated upon the eye-ring of this bird to distinguish it from the gray-cheeked thrush, but often found it harder to see this mark at two feet than under good light conditions at 20 feet. I am now aware of the variations in prominence of the eye ring and pay less attention to it. Instead, I watch for the buffier throat and the definite buff on the cheeks of the olive-backed, or the actual gray on the cheeks of its close relative.

There is no doubt that the sure way to settle a question of identification is by examination. I once caught a small bird of nondescript appearance that I would not presume to identify at three feet, except to say, "It is a warbler in fall plumage." Indeed, I would have been skeptical of almost any field expert who would have risked much more of an opinion. However, with ample time to check both the literature and the bird, it was possible to recognize it as an immature Tennessee warbler.

There is a greater appreciation of how the smaller birds are primarily creatures of the air when there is an opportunity to handle them. In proportion to the bird's size, the breast muscles are enormous, emphasizing the fact that most of the strength is concentrated on the operation of the wings. With a few exceptions, the perching birds I band are otherwise rather delicate little creatures. The legs of sparrows and warblers are no thicker than tooth picks.

Even when the larger passerines, such as blue jays and grackles, peck the bander's hand, there is seldom enough force in their blows to be painful. Some of the seed eaters are exceptions, as I found when I

banded one of my first cardinals. It bit my hand and I could not get it loose. As I did not want to release the bird without a band, I had to call a neighbor to pry the bill open.

There are noticeable variations in size and weight of the same species. Although only a fraction of an inch or a few grams, the differences are equivalent to normal variations in human bodies. Last week, I banded a blue jay with a tarsus so small that it could easily have taken a band a full size smaller than the one designed for jays. In April I trapped a giant white-crowned sparrow almost as large as a diminutive starling I banded the same day.

Occasional abnormalities are seen in trapped birds, although one case I noticed could have been seen by a field observer. It was an adult slate-colored junco which might have been called a "sharp-tailed" junco. The outer tail feathers had the normal white color, but were about half the length of the central feathers, which formed the point of a perfectly V-shaped tail. Except for length, all feathers appeared normal and no shafts were broken.

There is something intriguing about the bright eyes of a bird in the hand, and at times the bill or feet, but I am always fascinated with the feathers. Upon close inspection, they reveal subtle color patterns that could not be seen at a distance of ten feet. The tiny coverts at the bend of the wing on the white-throated sparrow show a small, delicate yellow patch, and it is always possible to see the buff band, be it ever so faint, on the breast of the Lincoln's sparrow. Most wonderful of all, though, is the marvelous way that each feather by size and structure is adapted to its function.

This, however, is not a topic for discussion by an amateur. It is a subject which should make a paper most interesting to every reader of the *Bulletin*. If you approve, Mr. Editor, I would suggest William Beecher as one of your possible "candidates" for such a project.

Editor's Note: How about it, Bill? *809 Michigan Ave., Evanston, Ill.*

Back Numbers Available

CURRENT ISSUES of the *Audubon Bulletin*, as well as back numbers, may be purchased before and after the "Screen Tours" near the entrance to the James Simpson Theater of the Chicago Natural History Museum. (The first lecture, by the way, will be on Sunday, October 26, at 2:00 p. m.) The most recent issue of the *Bulletin* is 15c, while older numbers sell for 10c a copy. Many members take advantage of this service to obtain back numbers which are of special interest to them.

Provision has now been made for downstate members and nature study groups to obtain back numbers on the same basis. Recent issues of the *Bulletin* may be purchased by mail, in lots of 20 or more of a given number. This makes the *Bulletin* available to bird clubs, teachers, scout leaders, garden clubs, and so on, both in and out of Chicago, in large quantities at a cost less than that for printing. The price, in lots of 20 or more, is 15c per copy. Orders and inquiries should be addressed to the Illinois Audubon Society, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Illinois.

"Westward, Ho!"

By Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin

What a day we are living in, with the many kinds of transportation we are privileged to use! Having never been in California, I was glad to get there as soon as possible, and flew by Trans World Airline from Chicago in 10 hours. Our trip was rerouted through Albuquerque instead of Las Vegas because of storms, bringing us in later than expected. On the way out I took some cloud pictures through the window of the plane which showed what bad storms were raging below us, though we were not disturbed.

Arriving in Los Angeles on May 30th, I rested on Saturday, enjoying the lovely home where I was to stay. Roses, hydrangeas, fuchsias and Martha Washington geraniums were abundant and all blooming. Black phoebes, house finches, Brewer's blackbirds, Chinese spotted doves and mockingbirds were in the streets and gardens. Sunday was spent with my brothers; one I had not seen for 43 years.

Monday found us on our way to Catalina Island. We spent part of two days there, taking every trip out from the island and also through 35 miles of its mountainous interior. On the way to the interior we visited William Wrigley's El Rancho Escondido, where we saw pure-bred Arabian horses being trained. We also toured the new radio station installed high up on the mountain.

We saw Bird Park, with its hundreds of rare and exotic birds from all over the world. We viewed Seal Rocks, and also the undersea gardens through a glass-bottomed boat. The flying fish put on a fine display when we took the boat again in the evening. A 40,000,000 candlepower searchlight was played on water, rocks and hills. We saw far more seals at night than in the daytime trip. Catalina is an education in itself. During the ride in the mountains we saw a striking mature bald eagle drinking water at a reservoir, and a wild goat on a rock. I thought flying fish were large, but was told the average length is eighteen inches. The large herd of seals was on the mainland, but took off for safe depths with bellows from the males as the searchlight played on them.

On a drive out to the San Gabriel Bird Sanctuary, Mrs. O. M. Stultz told of a field trip by the Los Angeles Audubon Society and made arrangements for my brother and me to join them. We traveled by chartered bus to Charlton Flats in the mountains not far from Mt. Wilson. Yucca was in full bloom, with many spikes scattered over mountainside like sentinels. These plants may not be picked or disturbed, as they have good food value for anyone lost in the mountains. There were many other blooming plants which I could not identify. We enjoyed meeting the members very much.

Here I saw the pygmy nuthatch and the California or acorn woodpecker nesting in the same stump. Here, too, I added another woodpecker to my life list, the white-headed. Later I was to see this woodpecker much better in the forest up on the mountain in front of the chalet where we spent our two weeks at the California Audubon camp.

I spent a day with Leona Draheim. Leona sends best wishes to her friends in Chicago. We had a lovely day together, talking over old times and seeing birds about Altadena. To show what stores they have in California, she took me to Bullock's, which is to Pasadena as Field's is to us. It is on a much grander scale, though. The birds seen in Altadena were mountain chickadee, ringed dove, bush tit, plain titmouse with five young, brown towhee, hooded oriole, steller's jay, house finch, and spotted dove.

While at the Kerrville Audubon Camp of Texas, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. & Mrs. O. M. Stultz from El Monte, California. Mrs. Stultz is the director of the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary; her assistant director is Mrs. M. Gertrude Woods. Mrs. Stultz invited me to the sanctuary when in Kerrville, as I hoped then to go to the California camp. So back to Los Angeles I next went to visit Mrs. Stultz and spent an interesting day with her. While she was getting ready to take me to Ocean Beach, I went for a walk through part of the sanctuary. There was a number of birds at her feeding station. I saw black-chinned humingbirds, the California thrasher, valley quail, male and female, western house finch, blackheaded grosbeak, and mockingbirds. There was an imported pair of Eastern cardinals, and the Pyrrhuloxia or Arizona cardinal. At the beach we saw the snowy plover and some Belding sparrows, like our Savannah sparrows only darker. There were numbers of Heerman's, Western, and ringbilled gulls. The California gulls had left for the north to nest. When at Lake Tahoe (the Audubon camp), we saw a California gull and the least, Forster's, and Caspian terns.

In a waterway across the highway from the ocean, we saw Western willets, spotted sandpiper, killdeer, and Brewster's snowy egret. Sleeping side by side were a Western grebe and a ruddy duck. It was a strange sight. At another good birding spot we found the long-billed and Hudsonian curlews feeding together. Here we heard light-footed rails calling, but could not find one until I finally saw a small black bird, another, and then another until there were seven. The parents came out to lead the babies single file up a sandy slope over to another Salicornia swamp. Mrs. Stultz was delighted, for she had not seen this performance before. Later we saw several other adult rails. Moving on, we found an Anna's female humingbird, and thought we caught sight of a blue grosbeak. A dwarf cowbird was on the curb. There were many common redwings and tricolored redwings. Tri-colors and lightfooted rails were new to my life list. These rails are similar to the clapper rail on the East coast. I saw clappers when I attended the A. O. U. convention at Charleston, South Carolina, some years ago.

Mr. Stultz's treat to us was a sea food luncheon at the Sword fish restaurant on the beach, as he could not be with us. Mrs. Stultz is a delightful person to know. Many school children come to the sanctuary to study nature and conservation. Her museum adds much to their knowledge of the different kinds of snails, frogs, snakes, fish and lizards. The children are taught the care of these animals and can rent them to take home as they would a book from a library. Then they return

the animals to the museum for other specimens. The museum is about the size of our Trailside Museum at Thatcher Woods. Of course, there are also birds, flowers, shrubs and trees to identify.

Banning, California was much to look forward to, for Belle Wilson lives there and I had wanted to visit her for a long time. She used to write: "Come out to Banning, I will furnish the car and you can furnish the energy." We had part of two days, good times of birding, visiting and reminiscing of our trips to the Dunes and elsewhere around Chicago. I found her little changed. Maybe not able to go as fast as she used to, but who of us is the same as we were fifteen or more years ago?

Banning is nearer the desert than other places I visited, and had I more time to spend there, I could possibly have seen more of the desert birds, as the verdin, cactus wren, and others. But they will do for another day, as I hope to go back.

Miss Wilson took me to see a roadrunner's nest in a garden. It was about four or five feet from the ground in a small tree. This was quite a surprise to me, for I thought of the roadrunner as a ground nester. She didn't know whether the bird had returned to this (last year's) nest or not. We didn't see it while there. At a fisherman's retreat near Beaumont, we found many yellow-headed blackbirds, redwings, ruddy ducks, three cinnamon teal, pied-billed grebes, a lone lesser scaup duck, green heron and black-crowned night heron.

On another drive we saw four ravens, crows, Lawrence's and green backed goldfinches, Phainopeplas, and Western sparrow hawks feeding two young in the hole of a tree. There was a Western marsh hawk and a black phoebe. The marsh hawk and sparrow hawks had quite a battle before they separated, neither seeming to injure the other.

Belle Wilson was a member of both the Illinois Audubon and Chicago Ornithological Societies, and lived here many years until she moved to Banning. She is one of the few who has seen the ivory-billed woodpecker. When I told her I had missed seeing the dipper or water ouzel both at Boulder, Colorado, and in California, she said: "You have no complaint on that—I was ten years in trying to see the white-headed woodpecker and only saw it recently." I met Miss McDaniel, one of our Chicago nurses, in Los Angeles. It is good to see one's friends so far away from home. I met a Miss McGee on the Los Angeles Audubon Society trip also; she used to live in Chicago and belong to our Society. I was very surprised to see her.

Forest Lawn Memorial Park is the most unique of all cemeteries. Dr. Hubert Eaton, a successful young chemist, had a conviction that there should be a place for the dead as well as the living. In 1917 he started with a small cemetery that to him was a place of pessimism and despair, and began to change it into a cemetery now renowned for its beauty, dedicated to the living, and symbolic of joy inspired by Christ's promise of eternal life.

There are three lovely churches: "The Wee Kirk O' the Heather," recreated from the kirk at Glencarin, Scotland, the home of Annie Laurie; "The Little Church of the Flowers" a replica of the village church where

Thomas Gray composed his "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard;" and the "Church of the Recessional," replica of the parish church where Rudyard Kipling worshipped. Many couples go to the Wee Kirk O' the Heather and the Little Church of the Flowers to be married. Many beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers decorate the grounds.

Monday is a "'Closed Day" at the Los Angeles Planetarium, and so I was unable to hear the lecture. The grounds are nicely landscaped on a mountainside, with a wonderful view of Los Angeles either by day or night. There are trails below where one may see and hear many birds. Twilight was falling, so I could not see much, but I added a new bird, the wren tit, to my life list. The mountainside was full of mockingbirds; a California thrasher was seen, as well as two rabbits, the only ones I saw in California.

My two weeks in Los Angeles and surrounding towns were full of interesting experiences. I saw many old friends, and hope to visit them again some day.

6335 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, 37



Protection for Mourning Doves

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, alone among Midwestern states, still permits the hunting of mourning doves as a game bird. *The Living Museum*, quarterly publication of the Illinois State Museum at Springfield, pointed out in a recent article that the population of mourning doves has visibly declined, that the nesting capacity of this species is not great enough to withstand heavy hunting pressure, and that, as far as food value is concerned, "One may make a better meal of a robin."

Both the Illinois Audubon Society and the Illinois Natural History Survey have been making a study of the mourning dove situation, but such work takes time and neither organization has collected enough data to establish definite conclusions. Illinois bird observers, however, report unanimously that the population, nests, and number of successful young of the mourning dove have gone down considerably. Since the question of placing the species on the protected list is due to come up before the State Legislature at the biennial meeting in January, action must be taken now before it is too late.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors voted that the Illinois Audubon Society recommends placing the mourning dove on the list of protected birds in Illinois, and that the hunting season on this species be closed. Plans will be made to introduce a bill to this effect at the coming session of the Legislature; a State Senator or Assemblyman who will sponsor the bill whole-heartedly must first be found. Every member of the Society will then be asked to participate in a letter campaign, writing his representative (and urging his friends to write) in support of the bill. More information on this campaign will be published as it progresses.

Experiment in Humboldt Park

By Raymond Mostek

My wife, Irene, and I had the pleasure of leading a series of Saturday morning bird walks in Humboldt Park during April and May. Having just recently been introduced to the joys of bird watching, we felt that our preparation and experience were inadequate to the task before us. However, we were encouraged when we recalled how ignorant we were of bird life just a few years ago and how many birds we could now recognize. We also recalled the enjoyment we had found in the Lincoln Park bird walks led by Miss Doris Plapp.

Irene and I realized that no one medium of publicity regarding these walks would be sufficient. We therefore sent notices to the Recreation Department of the Chicago Park District, the Humboldt Park Superintendent, local community papers and several elementary schools. We realize now that notices should also have been sent to nearby public libraries and high schools.

Our luck with the weather did not hold up well. No one joined us in the rain on our first Saturday. The following week, a 7th grade teacher from the Yates School appeared with a dozen youngsters from her class. On each of the following Saturdays we found at least one new youngster. Several were high school students who were anxious to earn extra school credits, and three were boy scouts. For some the enthusiasm waned, or they were disinclined to arise early on an additional day. Not having done any bird watching in Humboldt Park before, the series proved most illuminating to us. The park is well-suited to bird study, with a main lagoon, several smaller bodies of water, an island, suggestions of a marsh, a waterfall and several relatively secluded tracts.

Here is the number of Saturdays that each species was sighted: Mallard-3, bufflehead-1, red-breasted merganser-2, killdeer-1, spotted sandpiper-1, solitary sandpiper-2, flicker-4, chimney swift-1, downy woodpecker-1, blue-jay-3, crow-1, red-breasted nuthatch-1, brown creeper-2, catbird-1, brown thrasher-2, robin-3, wood thrush-1, hermit thrush-1, olive-backed thrush-1, ruby-crowned kinglet-2, black and white warbler-3, Eastern yellow warbler-1, Cape May warbler-1, myrtle warbler-2, chestnut-sided warbler-1, palm warbler-2, red-winged blackbird-1, Baltimore oriole-1, bronzed grackle-5, cardinal-3, rose-breasted grosbeak-1, towhee-1, junco-1, field sparrow-1, white-throated sparrow-2. Total species seen, 35. The walks were canceled on three Saturdays because of rain.

Though not a single adult joined us on these walks, the youngsters were sorry to see the series end. Of the great value of such walks, there can be little doubt. Though books and films are valuable teaching aids for young children, to approach within six feet of a colorful bird they had never seen before is a zestful experience. To see in flight a bird they never knew existed add a note of realism often lacking in a classroom or lecture hall. Finally, a boy who learns the value and place of birds in nature's scheme of things at 10 years of age, does not kill owls and hawks at 15.

3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18, Ill.

Conservation News and Notes

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Bald Eagle. The Secretary of the Interior has declared killing of the bald eagle in Alaska illegal except when found committing damage to fishes, other wild life, domestic birds or mammals. Possession or transportation of any part of the carcass of a bald eagle is also illegal. It is unlawful to possess or transport evidence, including feathers, of eagles on which to claim bounty payments. When this was written, the Territorial Legislature had not yet rescinded the bounty law, a curious situation. However, it appears that an applicant for a bounty would be exposed to prosecution and we trust that the territorial courts will enforce the ruling.

Wildlife Refuges. The July-September number of the *National Parks Magazine* reports concern by the trustees of the National Parks Association over "the increasing number of actions that tend to break down the security of the national wildlife refuges." We may add that some smaller refuges need concern over their security. Road planners, miners, oil well agents, and hunters are often greedy for invasion of wildlife refuges. Their security depends on public support, and that means all of us.

Key Deer. The tiny Key deer of the Florida Keys has faced extinction in recent years because of its limited distribution in a region where there are many enemies, including poachers, forest fires, dogs, and other hazards. Only about fifty of the little animals are left, and these apparently cannot survive without warden protection.

A bill to set aside a sanctuary for this deer almost passed the 81st Congress, but was stopped by former Senator Forrest Donnell of Missouri, who used a technicality. The National Wildlife Federation has raised enough money to provide a special game-management agent for one year who will have the job of protecting the deer. This officer had that job during the past year on a salary provided by the Boone and Crockett Club of New York. Both a sanctuary and warden are needed. Many organizations have contributed to the fund for the salary this year.

Interest in Conservation. Though interest in conservation has increased greatly in recent years, most people know little about it, and still more do nothing about it. There is a curious indifference or sometimes hostility to talk about conservation unless it involves some local problem. There are members of conservation organizations who have this attitude to some extent.

So-called pork barrel legislation is possible only because of the practice of trading votes in legislatures or in Congress. This makes it necessary for conservationists to support the defeat of unwise legislation even though it involves projects in other parts of the country, or of the world, for that matter. Much of our heavy taxation is due to pork barrel legislation.

Promoters of a project which would benefit them but no one else, bring pressure on congressmen from their state to get a bill through Congress which would involve spending millions of dollars. The congressmen wish to keep their jobs, naturally, and they know that the promoters can influence a lot of unthinking people at election time. To get the bill passed, they must have the support of many congressmen from other states, and their votes are obtained only because they also have promoters back home who can cause trouble if their projects are not supported. Similar conditions exist in state legislatures.

In addition to the pressure brought by the promoters, we have the activity of such federal divisions as the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors. Both have large staffs which they wish to maintain, and both work with the promoters. They have powerful lobbies not only in Washington, but throughout the country, and get support from Chambers of Commerce, contractors, labor unions, and even from farmers in recent years. This combined activity is responsible for unwise drainage of marsh lands, costly dams that are not justified, and elaborate systems of levees. Conservationists have stopped some of the schemes proposed, but we need more interest and action by the public.

The hunters are organized, and they have great influence on some legislation. Much support has come from sportsmen for conservation because they realize that to have hunting and fishing, they must not exterminate wildlife, and also because some of their more enlightened leaders are really interested in conservation. However, there is much violation of laws for the protection of wildlife by hunters, and there is difficulty in getting enforcement of such laws as the migratory birds act. Such conditions could not exist if we all had more interest in conservation.

5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago



Burns Ditch Harbor Proposal. There is little to report on this subject except that a brochure was completed in July which gives information on the proposal and on the need for action. Persons desiring this brochure should communicate with Mr. E. M. Kratz, Box 801, Ogden Dunes, Gary, Indiana. Mrs. Dorothy R. Buell of Ogden Dunes has started organizing the women of Indiana in support of our effort to save the remaining unoccupied Indiana dunes. We need people who will act as leaders and they are invited to communicate with Mrs. Buell or myself.



New Officers for 1952—53

Three Noteworthy Changes were made in the list of officers of the Illinois Audubon Society for the coming year. Mrs. Anne Douglas Bayless was elected Secretary, replacing Mrs. Janet Zimmerman, who is planning to leave soon on an extended tour of Europe. She has worked earnestly for the Society for many years, and deserves our deepest thanks. Mrs. Zimmerman will continue as one of the Board of Directors.

Mrs. Walter S. Huxford, former president of the Evanston Bird Club, was named Third Vice-President and Chairman of the Education Committee, replacing Dr. Alfred Lewy, who also continues as a Director of the Society. Dr. Lewy has performed many tasks for the Society over a period of twenty years; he regularly contributes illuminating book reviews which appear in almost every issue of this bulletin. All other officers of the Society were re-elected for the coming year.

By unamious vote of the Board of Directors, Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice was elected an Honorary Vice-President of the Society. This action was taken in recognition of her participation in the work of the Society for fifteen years, as well as for her "numerous original contributions to ornithological science and literature, contributions which have made her one of the outstanding woman ornithologists of our time."

The Coots on Route No. 80

By James Hodges

The recent issue (No. 82) of the *Illinois Audubon Bulletin* contained two articles on the protection of bird life in Illinois. The appearance of these articles has prompted me to mention another case of needless slaughter of our native birds.

On highway No. 80 near Fulton, Illinois, (where Fulton and Carroll Counties join) is a huge cat-tail marsh. This area is well-known locally as the place to observe heavy concentrations of wintering waterfowl, geese in particular. Also during the spring migration, this area is a black mass of migrating American coots and pied-billed grebes. It is possible to drive to the edge of the water and make excellent photographs without the aid of a telephoto lens.

However, the scene is not too pleasant when one observes hundreds of dead, mutilated bodies of coots and grebes on the highway. These birds like to feed and secure grit on the small piece of land that runs the length of the marsh adjacent to the concrete. With the sudden approach of an automobile, the bird becomes confused and attempts to dash across the highway. In this manner hundreds of birds are killed each spring, usually during April and May.

A possible solution would be to string a chicken-wire mesh fence about two feet in height the length of the marsh to prevent the birds from dashing onto the road. Such a fence would have to be maintained only during the time of heavy migration. Perhaps this would be a positive program for some individual or bird club in that vicinity.

324 W. 31st Street, Davenport, Iowa

Editor's Note: Mr. Hodges' article included two photographs which we had no space to reproduce.

Book Reviews

A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi, by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Illustrated by George Miksch Sutton. Oxford University Press, 115 Fifth Ave., New York. $5.00.

Twenty-six states east of the Mississippi are covered by the author in 659 pages of rather fine print, probably in order to approximate the size of other books of similar nature. This includes a complete reference index to all birds mentioned, to localities described, and to other publications.

The twenty-four chapters divide the states into localities, together with directions for reaching them, and listing the birds more commonly seen therein, with their special habitats. The geology and the plant communities are mentioned, particulary where they influence the bird population. Not only the National, state and local parks are covered, but the smaller units of marshland, prairie, wood and lakeshore near cities large and small are listed, with specific directions for reaching them.

Apparently the lists of birds for each locality are limited to those reasonably certain to be seen. For this, the author had to depend somewhat on his collaborators, who are given due credit. Several years ago, at the request of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Karl Bartel and this reviewer listed a considerable number of birds at the Seney Wildlife Refuge, adding 13 species to the previously known records. At that time the most common broods of immature ducks were the hooded mergansers, identified by a specimen sent to Prof. Van Tine. Both the American and red-breasted were present, but then in the minority. Also a saw whet owl, immature, was picked up dead and identified by Prof. Van Tine.

The ruffed grouse credited to the dunes region near Chicago, where it formerly bred, is, alas, no longer there. The dates of the height of warbler migration on the wooded island in Jackson Park (Chicago) given as May 6-10, probably averages nearly a week later. As many as 20 species of warblers seen in one day are reported by early rising observers, and 250 species in one year for the Chicago area are listed by the more industrious members of the Illinois Audubon Society.

The black and white illustrations by Mr. Sutton are so good that, to this reviewer's imagination, the correct colors seem present. Altogether, this book is to the bird lover away from home what the motor club directory of restaurants and hotels is to the ordinary traveler. Much information is crowded into its pages; it will, no doubt, eventually have to be enlarged or divided into two volumes.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

More Book Reviews

THE FALL OF THE SPARROW, by Jay Williams, Oxford University Press, 115 Fifth Ave., New York, 1951, 158 pages,

The title of the book is metaphorical; the sparrow is still with us, but many other birds and animals which once inhabited the earth during historical times are not, and Mr. Williams has listed many species, including several races of humans, which no longer exist, or are in great danger of extinction. Their life histories and the manner of their demise, apparently well-documented, are treated with a tinge of bitter humor, but are so highly informative that one wonders how the author gathered so much material. He quotes a description of the lyre bird which makes it seem worth a trip to Australia to witness.

Mr. Williams discusses the probable events leading to the destruction of the unadaptable mastodon. In the case of the auk, the dodo and many others, he has gleaned the historical facts from numerous sources—a remarkable piece of research, remarkably well presented, and very readable.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

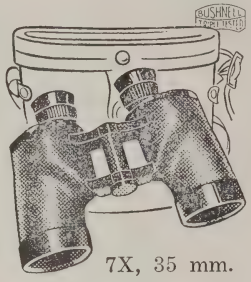
  

Crip, Come Home, by Ruth Thomas, 1952. Harper's, New York City. 175 pp, $2.50. A very charming book and at the same time a true one. It is the record of a crippled brown thrasher that lived for ten years in the author's garden. Through close observations of her color-banded birds, her deep sympathy with birds and beasts and plants, and her skill in writing, Mrs. Thomas has given us a remarkable picture of nature on a hillside in central Arkansas. The pageant of the seasons — from ice and snow to lovely spring and then to summer drought, the charm of the many birds that enjoyed her bounty, the beauty of flowers, the appeal of little goats and dogs — all these we see and feel. We read of the personalities and histories of the thrashers that returned year after year, of courtships and territory battles, of Crip's devotion to mate and nestlings, of relations between mates, former mates and neighbors, of vicissitudes and victories. We learn that the brown thrasher is a highly intelligent bird, that each has a definite personality, and that this personality changes markedly from spring to fall.

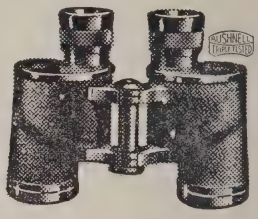
Crip, Come Home is a notable book, an important contribution to the study of bird behavior, as well as a work of art. It is a beautiful and touching memorial to the writer's husband.

Margaret M. Nice, 5725 Harper Avenue, Chicago

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Books for Nature Study

FIELD GUIDES TEXTBOOKS NATURE LITERATURE

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY will fill mail orders for almost any book in the field of ornithology, nature study or conservation. Books not now at hand can be obtained following receipt of order. The following volumes are in stock:

A Guide to Bird Finding, by Olin S. Pettingill. $5.00.

Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger T. Peterson. $3.50.

A Guide to Bird Watching, by Joseph J. Hickey. $4.00.

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Birds at Home, by Marguerite Henry. $2.00.

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THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$50.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 84 *December, 1952*

Natural History Survey

THE

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

(ORGANIZED IN 1897)

For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

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ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE SHORE DRIVE, CHICAGO 5, ILL.

Number 84 *December,* 1952



Fig. 1: *Baby Sora Rail* 3½ *hours old*

A Baby Sora Rail

By MARGARET M. NICE

WHEN I WENT to the hatchery at the Delta Waterfowl Research Station at Delta, Manitoba at 5 p.m. June 26, I found a baby *Porzana carolina* not yet dry. Don Sutton had discovered a nest with a pipped egg and it had hatched in his hand in the canoe at about 4:30. The bird's down was black, and its head somewhat bald; it had a red knob on its yellow bill and underneath a bunch of orange curls. It was something like a miniature Coot, but mostly it made me think of a tiny gnome. It weighed 5.5 grams. At 5:15 it took a bit of egg and turkey starter from the forceps. At 7:30 it scratched its head, then preened its breast and wings (Fig. 1). It jumped at the egg in the forceps. I put it in the incubator for the night.

The next morning, the baby Rail snatched at food when I held the forceps before it. It crawled out of the Yellow-headed Blackbird's nest on



Fig. 2: *Twenty hours old*



Fig. 3: *Two days old; pushing against my hand*

the table and walked 15 inches. It constantly gave a little wheezy song with 70 notes a minute. That afternoon it tried to cuddle under the young Yellow-headed Blackbirds (Fig. 4), pushing against them and burrowing beneath them, but the Yellow-heads did not hover it as its parents would have done.



Fig. 4: *Burrowing under Yellow-headed blackbird*

On June 28 it was very active and ate well, holding its wings straight out and jumping for the food. It made no attempt to pick up food itself as the baby Coots do their first or second days. Unfortunately, I could find very few insects that it liked — tiny caterpillars and grasshoppers; when it tasted marsh flies it shook its head and scratched its bill. The artificial food was not adequate; for two days it drooped, and on July 1 it died.

A few days later a Virginia Rail, *Rallus limicola,* hatched in the incubator, a completely black little thing except for yellow at the base and tip of its bill. It was wild and would accept no food from me. The Sora had been "imprinted" on human beings through the circumstances of its birth; it considered them its parent-companions, but tried to make the Yellow-heads into "warmth-companions."

5725 Harper Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois

Protection for Mourning Doves — II

By Paul H. Lobik

The Need for Protection of mourning doves in Illinois was originally stated in the September issue of the *Bulletin.* Since then, the Illinois Audubon Society has taken the following steps:

1. A Committee for the Conservation of the Mourning Dove in Illinois was appointed by President Harry Smith, with Mr. Raymond Mostek as chairman and Francis C. Whitehead and Paul H. Lobik as members.

2. Mr. Mostek has written to Representative George S. Brydia of Prophetstown, Illinois, to determine whether he would be willing to sponsor a bill in the coming session of the State Assembly to place the mourning dove on the list of protected birds. Mr. Brydia was the author of the bill which was killed in committee at the last session of the Assembly.

3. A letter has been sent to Mr. Guy Atherton, Director, Conservation Militant, Box 72, St. Paul 2, Minnesota, who has been spearheading the drive to stop hunting of doves in all states. He points out that closed seasons in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana are meaningless if doves can still be slaughtered during their fall migration through Illinois. Mr. Atherton has offered to send the I. A. S. the names of five Illinois Assemblymen who are willing to sponsor a mourning dove bill. Members who wish to aid Mr. Atherton in his nation-wide conservation program may write to him at the address above.

4. Mr. Mostek has also written to retiring Governor Adlai Stevenson and asked him to recommend the names of several assemblymen who could be relied upon to support the bill in the next session.

5. Mr. Whitehead has conferred with the State Assemblyman from his district regarding this project. His representative pointed out that such a bill is not likely to be favorably received in the State Assembly unless it has the full endorsement of the State Department of Conservation (the bill which failed did not have such support). Therefore, the assemblyman advises us to write to Governor-elect William Stratton, urging him to appoint a Director of Conservation who is actively interested in protecting and encouraging wildlife in Illinois. After the appointment is made known, all I. A. S. members should write to the Conservation Director, Department of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois, asking him to close the hunting season on mourning doves.

6. Any member of this Society who is closely connected with a State Assemblyman, and who knows that the representative would be favorable to our conservation aims, should write at once to the Dove Committee, % The Editor, *Illinois Audubon Bulletin,* giving us his name and address.

In writing to the Governor-elect, point out the facts given in this and the preceding article. The I. A. S., represented by Mr. Charles Kossack, and the Illinois Natural History Survey, represented by Mr. Harold C. Hanson, have been collecting data on the mourning dove situation for the past four years. In the December, 1951 issue of *Illinois Wildlife* magazine, these men wrote: "On the basis of data collected up to July 1 (1951), it

was predicted that the dove population in late August and early September would be from 40% to 60% under that of a year ago. Events during the hunting season amply confirmed the biologists' earlier prediction. . . Everyone will agree that if there is any doubt as to how much additional protection should be given the dove, the decision should be in favor of the dove and not the hunter."

After the new Governor of Illinois is inaugurated, it would be wise to write to him a second time, asking him to direct his new Conservation Director to support actively the bill to close the dove season. The governor may then be addressed as follows: Hon. William G. Stratton, Executive Mansion, Springfield, Illinois. As soon as a mourning dove bill is brought up in the State Assembly, I. A. S. members will be shown a map of the legislative districts in Illinois and will be asked to write to their representatives in support of the bill.

So far, the Illinois Audubon Society, the Conservation Council, and the Chicago Ornithological Society have adopted resolutions favoring abolition of the hunting season on doves. *The Bulletin* will continue to given news of the progress of this program as new developments arise.

4835 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago 39, Illinois

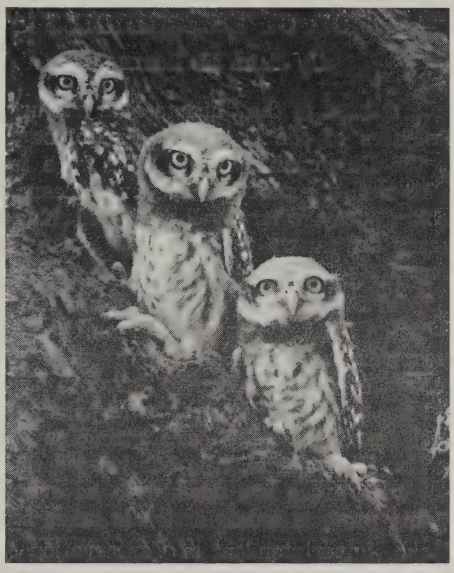


Audubon Christmas Census — 1952

EACH MEMBER OF the Society is urged to participate in the annual Christmas Census of birds in his vicinity, to be taken during the week of December 25, 1952 to January 1, 1953. Get in touch with your local bird club or nature society to learn where or when their hike is planned, or if there is no organization in your area, make your own arrangements. Some of the best observations have been made by lone bird-watchers.

The Chicago Ornithological Society expects to start its traditional Christmas bird walk at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, on Sunday, December 28. The usual meeting place is the Administration Building at 9:30 a.m., but it is advisable to call the Field Chairman, Mr. Albert Campbell, 345 W. 72nd Street, at ABerdeen 4-9199, to be sure of the exact place and time. The walk is held regardless of weather conditions; warm clothes and a substantial lunch are recommended equipment.

Census Reports should be sent early in January to the *Bulletin* Editor, 4835 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago 39, Illinois. Copies will be forwarded to the National Audubon Society if so requested. Please follow the form used in previous Reports; see the March, 1952 issue of the *Bulletin* for examples. The information should include terrain covered, miles by foot or auto, weather, time spent in observations, species seen (listed in A. O. U. checklist order), and names of persons participating. Reports should be typed double space on one side of 8½ by 11 paper. Please be sure that your group submits its report to the Editor.



TRIPLE WISDOM by O. C. Edward

Exhibition of Nature Photography

MEMBERS OF THE ILLINOIS Audubon Society, along with all other photographers, are invited to participate in the Eighth Chicago International Exhibition of Nature Photography, to be held from February 2 through March 1, 1953, at the Chicago Natural History Museum. The competition is sponsored jointly by the Museum and the Nature Camera Club of Chicago.

Acceptable contest subjects are pictures of birds, mammals, insects, plants, shellfish, geological formations — in fact, any aspect of our natural environment. The accompanying photograph of three owls by Mr. O. C. Edward of Bangalore, S. India, was awarded an "honorable mention" in the 1952 Exhibition. Silver medals, ribbons, and certificates are awarded to the makers of winning prints and color slides.

Accepted prints will be displayed in the main hall of the Museum through the month of February. Accepted slides will be projected in James Simpson Theater (where the Audubon Screen Tours are held) on two Sunday afternoons, February 15 and 22. All entries should be mailed before January 17, 1953; each contestant is limited to four prints and/or four slides.

The International Exhibition is conducted in accordance with the rules of the Photographic Society of America. Pictures will be judged by a panel of five photographers and naturalists, one of whom is Dr. J. W. Hudson, past president of the Chicago Ornithological Society. To obtain entry forms, write to Paul H. Lobik, 4835 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago 39, Illinois.

Preservation of Dutchman's Slough

By Paul H. Lobik

All Nature Club Members in the Chicago area are urged to write to the Board of Commissioners of the Cook County Forest Preserves and ask them to set aside the Dutchman's Slough Area as a forest preserve and bird sanctuary. This action represents our only means of protecting the last areas in Cook County where yellow-headed blackbirds and black-crowned night herons are known to nest.

The swamplands in question are bordered by the Calumet Superhighway on the west, 130th Street and the South Shore Railroad on the north, and the big bend of the Little Calumet River on the east and south. It is here that the blackbirds and other species breed each spring. A second area, extending eastward from the river to Torrence Avenue, and from the railroad to 134th Street, is where the night heron colony resides. Naturalists and students travel for many miles each spring to observe this unique marsh bird home. Mr. Karl Bartel, who has banded the herons for many years, reports that both areas are doomed to be engulfed by industrial or residential building projects unless action is taken soon.

Mr. Roberts Mann, Superintendent of Conservation of the Forest Preserve District, writes that the Beaubien Forest Preserve (west of the Superhighway) is to be increased by the acquisition of the aforementioned land within the big bend of the river. However, neighboring areas have already been designated as sites for a new Chicago housing development. Mr. Mann points out that if the swamplands are to be preserved as a sanctuary, rather than filled in, letters urging such action should be sent at once to the Board of Commissioners and to the General Superintendent, Mr. Charles Sauers.

Both the I. A. S. and the Chicago Ornithological Society have written as organizations to the above persons. But individual action is also needed. Send your letters to the attention of Mr. Charles G. Sauers, General Superintendent, Forest Preserve District, 536 N. Harlem Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

4835 *Wabansia Avenue, Chicago* 39, *Illinois*

Form for Bequest

Occasionally the Illinois Audubon Society receives an inquiry from a member or friend who wishes to bequeath a sum in his will to the Society. The form for such bequests is quite simple, and is well known to attorneys who are accustomed to these matters. For the benefit of those who wish to draw up their own bequest, this is the recommended form:

> *Section (Paragraph of Article): I hereby give and bequeath to the Illinois Audubon Society of Chicago, Illinois, an Illinois corporation, the sum of dollars; the same to be paid to the treasurer of the Society within one year after my death.*

Let's Save the Hennepin Canal

By Raymond Mostek

Within a four-hour drive of Chicago lies a relatively unknown body of water, the Illinois-Mississippi Canal — often referred to as the Hennepin Canal. It was built by the Army Engineers Corps about 45 years ago, and for a time served as a "short cut" to the Mississippi waterway. The canal has an average depth of seven feet and a shore line of 104 miles. Traffic over this route has declined steadily through the years.

In June of 1951, the Army Engineers announced that the canal would no longer be used for navigation. In response to strong pressure from conservationists, the Illinois Legislature adopted a resolution urging that the canal and its shoreline be set aside for a State Park or similar purposes. Unless a state or national agency takes over the maintenance of the canal, the Army Engineers declare that they will remove the locks and drain the channel, thus destroying it as a body of water.

The State Conservation Department would welcome efforts to make the Hennepin Canal into a State Park. The Legislature apparently is also interested. However, those who would benefit most — the people of Illinois — for the most part are unaware that such a canal and possible recreational area exist. There are many financial and technical problems to be solved, but given the will and the necessary enthusiasm, this area can be saved.

Much is to be said in favor of creating a Hennepin Canal State Park. Illinois has lagged in setting aside sufficient recreational area to satisfy its millions of outdoors-loving citizens. Large tracts such as the Hennepin Canal shoreline are becoming increasingly scarce. Pennies spent in keeping physical and mental health through outdoor recreation are far better spent than dollars used to regain health in hospitals and institutions. And the value of the fish and wildlife disappearing from the face of this country can not be measured in dollars.

The Hennepin Canal already provides swimming, fishing and boating pleasure for thousands of residents in its vicinity. Its possibilities for wider use are indeed great. Will we have the energy and the foresight to save it?

3345 *N. Harding Avenue, Chicago, Illinois*

Distribution List of Illinois Birds

President Harry Smith reports that work is progressing steadily on "The Distribution List of the Birds of Illinois." This booklet is to be published jointly by the Illinois Audubon Society and the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. So far, records have been received from all but two areas, and the work of compiling and typing the great mass of data has already begun. Copies should be ready for sale and distribution during the coming year.

Night Migration of Birds

By JOHN BAYLESS

MOON-WATCHING for migrating birds can be exhilarating when the birds are moving or dull when they are not. In either case, one provides a series of Chicago Park District patrolmen with a "now I've seen everything" report if one chooses, as we did, an observation post in a Chicago park. The complete disbelief, followed by wonderment, then curiosity (were we really seeing any birds?), and finally the baffled "I suppose they're harmless" departure made the effort worth while even on an unrewarding night.

Our experiences in moon observations so far bear out the generally accepted belief that birds do take advantage of prevailing winds and avoid head winds while on migration. Our big count in October was made with north and northwest winds 4 to 9 m.p.h. at ground level and NNE at 10 to 15 m.p.h. at the 2,000 foot level. A cold front had arrived just 24 hours earlier than our start that night. In five hours of observation, we saw 113 birds apparently riding the north wind toward the warmer south. The next night, with the temperature some 10 degrees higher at 50° but with a 15 m.p.h. wind from the southwest, shifting to south during our one hour and ten minutes of observation, we saw no birds. The weather bureau reported a 40 m.p.h. wind from the SSW at the 2,000 foot level that night.

We were participating in a moon-watching bird count conducted at many points in the country by bird watchers at the request of Robert J. Newman, Assistant Curator, Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge 3, La. Mr. Newman and others at the university have worked out a mathematical formula and system through which observations by watchers are converted into valuable calculations of the number and type of birds migrating in a particular area at the time of observation.

The observations are made when the moon is full or nearly so. The observer must have a glass which will take in the entire face of the moon, preferably a 19 power or more telescope; a comfortable chair in which he can lean back; fairly good vision; the ability to tell time; and most of all, patience.

Our first attempt at moon-watching for birds was an absolute failure, as a few minutes of squinting at the moon through a 20-power, coated lens spotting scope just about blinded us. Then we wrote to Mr. Newman and got his full set of directions. The moon did not blind us when we used a cardboard shield with a hole through it for the eyepiece. The shield permitted keeping both eyes open. We found we could watch as long as an hour and a half at a stretch before changing observers. A century-old steamer chair (brought home by Anne's great-grandfather after an ocean voyage) provided just the right position for relaxing under the telescope on its tripod. A lawn chair probably would serve equally well. A word of

warning: dress twice as warmly as you think there could be any possible need for. Night air feels twice as cold as the thermometer shows when you are sitting or reclining motionlessly for any length of time.

We watched for about four hours the night of September 13, 1952, in an empty parking lot in Spring Mill State Park, near Mitchell, Indiana, while a late whip-poor-will and a distant barred owl called occasionally. We averaged about 20 birds an hour in that sitting. Either a whip-poor-will or a nighthawk flipped about the face of the moon once during Anne's turn at the scope.

Wednesday, October 1, we planned an all-night watch at Orland Wildlife Refuge, southwest of Chicago, but we had barely started when it clouded over so heavily with the arrival of the cold front mentioned earlier that we had to stop. The next night we set up the telescope on Northerly Island in Chicago, above the bathing beach just south of the Adler Planetarium. The temperature was 47° at 8 p.m. when we started and 38° when we stopped at 1:30 a.m. A strong wind was blowing from the north, most uncomfortable for us but apparently just to the liking of the fall migrants. They came at times as fast as five in three minutes. Between 9 and 11 p.m. we averaged better than 30 birds an hour. Then there was an abrupt slackening, but we still were getting frequent birds when we stopped, as we both had to work the next day. Once that night, and once in September, we saw two birds on the face of the moon simultaneously.

The next night, Friday, October 3, Anne met me with full equipment when I finished work at 10:30 p.m., and we were set up for observation at the same place on Northerly Island by 11 p.m. We watched. I sat facing a chill wind, from the south this night, for 45 minutes. Anne then took over and watched until 12:10 a.m. when we gave up. Neither of us had seen anything except the moon and some wispy clouds that were gradually becoming thicker and obscuring the moon for brief intervals.

Mr. Harold H. Lenz, a fellow director of the Illinois Audubon Society, and members of his family watched for several hours also on Friday night at his home in Mundelein, Ill., starting earlier in the evening than we did, but they saw not one bird cross the face of the moon.

Mr. Lenz said his group heard almost continuous sounds of small birds, possibly warblers and sparrows, chirping and fluttering about in shrubbery, at times coming within inches of the observers. We heard not a bird sound that night, although we had heard and seen killdeer all evening Thursday, our big count night. Mr. Lenz said the killdeer is common around his home and he often sees and hears it after dark, but he heard none that night.

7200 *Coles Avenue, Chicago 49, Illinois*

Audubon Screen Tours

The second in our series of "Audubon Screen Tours" will be presented in James Simpson Theater of the Museum on Saturday, January 3, at 2:00 p.m. Howard Cleaves will show his color film on "Animals Unaware."

Conservation News and Notes

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Saving the Indiana Dunes. References to this subject have appeared under the heading Burns Ditch Harbor Proposal in the last seven numbers of the *Audubon Bulletin.* It has been decided by Indiana people working on the effort to save the Indiana Dunes not yet occupied by industry or residences, to adopt a positive policy and not one of negation. In keeping with this commendable viewpoint, the slogan of "Save the Dunes!" has been adopted.

Indiana women have developed an effective organization under the leadership of Mrs. Dorothy R. Buell of Ogden Dunes, called the "Save the Dunes Council." They have published an attractive leaflet which has the caption "Save the Dunes before it's too late!" They have also published a brochure with the title "Save the Dunes." This supplements effectively the brochure published by the Indiana Dunes Preservation Council, which has the title, "Let Us Save the Dunes."

The publication of literature for extensive distribution involves considerable expense. Contributions of any size are solicited, and they should be sent to Mrs. Willard Butz, Box 952, Ogden Dunes, Gary 5, Indiana. Money will also be needed to acquire the property involved, and this will be no small sum. The November meeting of the Conservation Council was devoted to a third consideration of the project with Mrs. Buell, Mr. E. M. Kratz, and Mr. Floyd Swink as speakers.

Land Grabbing. A paper at the American Wildlife Conference last March by Mr. Cleveland van Dresser presented some startling facts concerning losses of our public lands. This was condensed in *Conservation News* for May 15, and some of the items in this condensed report are given here.

About one million acres of public lands have passed into private ownership through flagrant misuse of laws governing the discovery and operation of mines. Only 14 per cent of this land ever produced minerals in commercial quantities. Most of it was obtained fraudulently. Still more appalling, it is estimated that 300 million acres more of public lands are vulnerable to such misuse if our archaic mining laws (enacted in 1872) are not changed. Stockmen and lumbermen are the chief offenders, but persons with a variety of other enterprises have participated in the land grabbing.

The National Forests have suffered most, but attacks have been made and are still being made on the National Parks, National Monuments, and Wildlife Refuges. This practice will continue until our mining laws have been properly altered and the machinery for enforcing them strengthened.

Two remedies have been suggested. One is to separate surface rights from mining rights when granting mining claims. The other is to grant mining privileges on lease as is done with coal and petroleum. In any

case there should be provision for granting mining privileges only when the evidence for mining values is unquestionable, and even then these should not justify invasion of wildlife refuges or lands in the National Park system. Public opinion must be aroused before anything can be done.

IMPORTATION OF PLUMAGE. The millinery trade and the fishermen still get feathers from foreign countries. One of the last bills passed by the 82nd Congress allows some importation of skins of various species of pheasants for use in tying artificial flies for fishhooks and for the milliners. According to *Conservation News* for September 1st, "This legislation was passed as a protective measure against greater killing of these birds abroad." One may well ask why any such importations are warranted. The most important reason for the founding of the Illinois Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society was the feeling that such traffic should be stopped.

TRUMPETER SWAN. *Conservation News* for October 1st reported that the population of this species, which had declined to 73 in 1935, had been increased to 571, according to the last count. This is an increase of 36 over the count for the preceding year. Montana had 404, Wyoming 82 (mostly in Yellowstone National Park), and Idaho 70. Fully 239 of the birds were found in Red Rock Lakes Refuge in Montana, without which it is doubtful if the species would exist now.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN. The prairie chicken has been chosen by the National Wildlife Federation for Wildlife Week in 1953 as the symbol of natural resources which this country has nearly lost. Once plentiful from the Appalachian Mountains to the Rocky Mountains, these birds are now dangerously scarce.

5716 *S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago*

List of New Members

Since it is too great a task to publish the names of all our members, we will do the next best thing by announcing our most recent new members. These are the people who have joined us in the past few months. We hope that their stay will be a long and pleasant one. All are from Illinois:

Mrs. Joseph Erwood, Crystal Lake
Miss Gretchen Heinke, Chicago
Mr. Melbourne P. Jahp, Chicago
Mrs. Maralyn J. Jahp, Chicago
Mr. Raymond A. James, Chicago
Mr. William F. Kunke, Union
Mrs. Gordon J. Lawler, Chicago
Mrs. Herman F. Mann, Chicago
Miss Ruth Nielander, Chicago
Mr. Joseph D. Titus, Chicago

Book Reviews

BIRDS OF NEWFOUNDLAND, by Harold S. Peters and Thomas D. Burleigh. Illustrated by Roger Tory Peterson. Issued by the Department of Natural Resources, Province of Newfoundland, St. John's, N. F., 1951. $5.00.

The authors of this book are members of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, which in itself is high recommendation. This is a list of the birds of Newfoundland containing, interestingly, a number of local subspecies such as the Newfoundland robin (*Turdus m. negrideus*), the Newfoundland winter wren (*Troglodytes t. aquilonaris*), the Newfoundland small-billed water thrush (*Seiurus n. uliginosus*), etc. This is somewhat reminiscent of the birds of Florida and California. The identifications have all been carefully checked by a number of authorities, and compared with authentic collections in museums in Canada and the United States. Many of the birds are also residents of the Northeastern United States, but of special interest are the numerous sea birds which have their homes in Newfoundland. The illustrations, reproduced from paintings by Roger Tory Peterson, are remarkable for accuracy of color reproduction. The postures are lifelike, and the result is of a quality seldom seen outside of much more expensive volumes. There are 32 color plates, illustrating 153 species, and 40 black and whites.

The book contains concise descriptions of the Newfoundland climate and terrain and of other ornithological investigations. The authors state that they have endeavored to include all available information on the birds of Newfoundland in this book. I would say that they have succeeded admirably. Anatomy, physiology, including types of flight, and psychology are all discussed. Classification, geographical distribution, life zones and conservation are well treated. Descriptions and field characteristics are clearly and concisely put, and one marvels at the amount of information crammed into 431 pages. Maps on both covers show the geographical localities mentioned in the text. There are also nearly ten pages of selected bibliography. This is altogether a valuable guide.

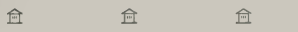
Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

THE CLEVER COYOTE, by Stanley P. Young and Hartley H. Jackson. 411 pages. Illustrated with 70 half-tones and 27 line drawings and range maps. Sponsored by the Wildlife Management Institute and published by the Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Penn., 1951. $6.50.

For a quarter of a century the senior author has investigated and amassed detailed data about three of North America's mammalian predators, the wolf, the puma, and the coyote. The publication of this book completes the three "must" books that should be in the library of every student of wildlife. The other two publications are "Wolves of North America" and "The Puma, Mysterious American Cat." The authors describe the unusual aspects of the life history of this wild dog of the plains, which has remained quite wild and managed to increase its numbers and range by its high degree of cunningness in spite of the advancements of civilization and predation controls.

The junior author has contributed many details regarding the life habits of the coyote. This book is the product of complete data gathered during many years of research on food habits, economic status, characteristics and control.

Charles W. Kossack, Barrington, Illinois



The Birds of Greenland (*Gronland's Fugle*). Text by Finn Salomonsen, plates from paintings by Gitz-Johansen, published by Einar Munksgaard, Copenhagen, Denmark. In three volumes; 608 pages; 52 color plates; 74 black and white sketches, each heading one of the birds described. $42.00, paper-bound. May be obtained in buckram, half-calf or vellum binding at extra cost. Accompanied by a contour map of Greenland, on a scale of 1-5,000,000, colored for three life zones.

Quoting from the preface: "Far toward the north, more than ten days' voyage from Denmark, lies Greenland, the largest island in the world. . . More than sixty times the size of Denmark, one of the smallest nations in the world, which has for two centuries succeeded in exploring the country and protecting the lives and interests of its native population. It has been the scene of Danish daring and Danish initiative. . . One aspect is our achievements in the field of ornithology, shown in this work, which deals with all the birds that inhabit and breed along the rough coasts and on the inland heaths of Greenland, birds that are essential to the peoples' income. They are described by the leading authority on Greenland birds, Dr. Finn Salomonsen, and set out by beautiful color plates by Gitz-Johansen, the well-known painter of Greenland subjects. His pictures of birds flying over the ice-filled sea are so intensely alive that they fill one with longing for this magnificent country." This is signed by Hans Hedtoft, Minister for Greenland, the Danish Prime Minister.

The introduction states that Greenland ornithology dates back to Hans Egede, who lived at Godthab during 1721-36, and credits H. Winge (1898) with a treatise containing all records. Since then, the collections have increased by many thousand of bird skins, and more has been added to our knowledge in the last 50 years than in the previous 150 years. For practical purposes, the ice-free areas are divided into the East coast, the West coast and the North coast. It is said that no life exists on the ice cap that covers all of Greenland except the coastal areas and adjacent inland heaths.

Each volume measures 13½ by 9½ inches, and the color plates are all full page size. The common names of some of the birds differ from those familiar to us; for instance, the jaegers are called long-tailed skua, the parasitic jaeger is called the arctic skua, the Northern phalarope is called the red-necked phalarope, etc., although the technical names are mostly as we know them except for the additional name for local subspecies. Each page is arranged in two columns, one Danish, the other English. The anatomical and plumage descriptions are very brief, but the life histories, the habits, the behavior notes indicate the intimate personal knowledge Prof. Salomonsen has of his subjects.

The color plates are made by a six-color offset process, with the result that I cannot tell them from original water colors. They do not carry the emphasis on line and color, and are softer in tone than the three and four-color reproductions in this country, which are intended largely for identification of species. In the artist's own words: "During the course of seventeen years, I have had the opportunity of travelling over the whole of Greenland. . . Landscapes from the whole of Greenland therefore will appear as settings to my bird studies. I have endeavored to reconcile ornithological exactness with my own artistic conception in order that bird and scenery should form together an artistic whole." This reviewer's enthusiastic opinion is that each plate is worthy of a place in an art gallery.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

Sexual Behavior in Penguins, by L. E. Richdale, M.A., H.D.A., Corresponding Fellow A. O. U.; Honorary Lecturer in Zoology, University of Otago, New Zealand. University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas. 1951. $5.00.

The scope of this work is far greater than is indicated by the title. It is a detailed, objective life study of penguins as identifiable individuals from the observer's blind, and covers their behavior under all conditions except under water, where they seek their food. It is written in beautifully clear English, and illustrated by 22 excellent black and white plates. The author states in his preface that "the text covers only the first ten years of research." Altogether, 292 matings were studied. Ornithologists the world over have a pattern set for them.

Mr. Richdale is in this country on a Fulbright fellowship. The members of the Illinois Audubon Society who have met Mr. Richdale and know the quality of his work will appreciate the complimentary references in his book to our Mrs. Nice.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

I. A. S. Newsletter

This Column will report, from time to time, news that will be of interest to members of the Society — of people, of places and events. Through these paragraphs we will collect and disseminate all the miscellaneous information that should be made known in any active organization.

News of Field Trips Wanted

Who's the Field Chairman of your local Bird Club? Send in his name and address — or better still, send in your hiking program for the coming months. The Illinois Audubon Society does not go on regular field trips (except in connection with the Annual Meeting), preferring to leave the hike planning to the local societies scattered all over the state. But the I. A. S. can, through the *Bulletin*, act as a clearing-house for information about trips all over Illinois, so that any member can join a group in any

other area, if he should happen to be traveling, and enjoy birding in unfamiliar surroundings with congenial companions. So all Field Chairmen are invited to send in the details of any trip they want publicized — and it will be featured in these pages. Just remember that all information must reach the *Bulletin* Editor at least three weeks before publication: that is, news of your spring schedules for the March issue should be mailed before February 5th.

So far, the only field trip reported to us is that of the *Chicago Ornithological Society,* which plans to hike in the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, on Sunday, December 28, beginning at 9:30 a.m. They meet at the Administration Building, which is just east of the main entrance on Route #53. See the announcement of the Christmas Census, elsewhere in these pages, for more details.

Done Your Christmas Shopping Yet?

You haven't? Good! Then it's not too late to get that special gift for the nature lover in your family. There are many nature books and field guides to choose from. The list on the back page of this *Bulletin* is only a sampling of what the Society has to offer; remember, we can order and deliver almost any current book on natural history. Of course, if your plans include an exceptional gift, then the binoculars should not be overlooked. The ones sold by the Society are best quality, and ideal for birders. And don't forget that a membership in Illinois Audubon makes a worthwhile gift, too.

Those Dues Are Due Again

In a few more weeks, notices will go out to all members that dues for the coming year are payable. We are trying to get everyone on a fiscal basis — that is, to pay at the beginning of the year. Dues will be prorated for those whose membership anniversary is some months away. Send in the amount now, and save yourself the trouble of worrying about an expiration at some odd time in the year. The *Bulletin* goes to paidup members only.

Elk Grove Forest Preserve

By PHILIP N. STEFFEN

THE ELK GROVE RESERVE is made up of woods and hidden swamps and fragments of virgin prairie — a unique remainder of the aboriginal America that has vanished. It is comprised of 1660 acres along Route 72 (Higgins Road), 25 miles northwest of Chicago and ¾ mile west of Arlington Heights Road.

A recent action of the Cook County Board of Commissioners has approved enlargement of Elk Grove Forest Preserve by 565 acres. Acquisition of the land is expected to take about two years, and will extend the southern boundary of the preserve westward to Beisner Road, which will become the new western boundary.

Part of the present area includes heavily timbered, unspoiled woods, with groves of white and black oak, hard maple, and mixed oak-maple forests. There is also a grove of pine trees on the northern edge of the preserve. In other areas are hidden swamps, largely overgrown with cattails, providing refuge for wild ducks, bitterns, rails, herons, pheasants, and muskrats. The reserve literally teems with bird life in season.

I have recorded over 100 species of birds, both migratory and resident. The list includes woodcock, common snipe (jacksnipe), upland plover, blue-winged teal, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, Baltimore oriole, scarlet tanager, cedar waxwing, many varieties of warblers, vireos, flycatchers and sparrows. The great blue heron and the American egret are found along Salt Creek during the late summer.

In the northwest part of the Elk Grove tract is a secluded prairie, surrounded by woods, that is seldom visited. This wilderness shrine is often beautified by unusual birds and wildflowers. There is also a large prairie on the east end of the grove, about ½ mile north of Higgins Road, where I often find upland plover during the spring and summer. It is likely that they nest there. The grove produces an abundance of wild flowers; here one may still find the cardinal flower.

To my mind, this is one of the most interesting and primitive forest preserves in Cook County.

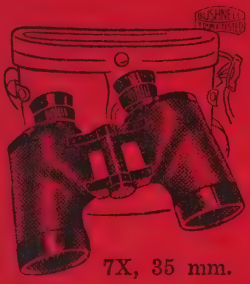
2135 *Balmoral Avenue, Chicago 25, Illinois*

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

Binoculars for Nature Study



7X, 35 mm.



6X, 30 mm.

BUSHNELL PRISM BINOCULARS provide high quality at low price. Clarity of optical systems compares favorably with expensive American-made or pre-war German binoculars.

BUSHNELL BINOCULARS are accurate — color-corrected — collimated for perfect alignment. Lightweight magnesium body. Prisms and lenses coated for increased brilliance. Sold with guarantee certificate, leather carrying case and straps.

The Illinois Audubon Society offers two models, selected particularly for bird students:

7 power, 35 mm: Field 375 ft. at 1000 yds. Exit pupil, 5 mm. Light efficiency, 37. Center focus. Weight 17 oz.; height, 4¾ inches.....**Each $58.50***

6 power, 30 mm: Field 445 ft. at 1000 yds. Exit pupil, 5 mm. Light efficiency, 37. Center focus. Weight, 15½ oz.; height, 4½ inches.....**Each $43.50***

Buy your binoculars through the Society and support its work in protecting birds and wildlife. To order, write the Illinois Audubon Society, Chicago Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Illinois.

****Plus 20% Federal Excise Tax***

Books for Nature Study

FIELD GUIDES TEXTBOOKS

NATURE LITERATURE

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY will fill mail orders for almost any book in the field of ornithology, nature study or conservation. Books not now at hand can be obtained following receipt of order. The following volumes are in stock:

A Guide to Bird Finding, by Olin S. Pettingill. $5.00.

Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger T. Peterson. $3.50.

A Guide to Bird Watching, by Joseph J. Hickey. $4.00.

The Migration of Birds, by Frederick C. Lincoln. $1.00.

Birds at Home, by Marguerite Henry. $2.00.

Traveling with the Birds, by Rudyerd Boulton. $2.00.

Golden Nature Guide Books. A series of nature guides, pocket size, for children and beginners. We have the following volumes: Birds; Wild Flowers; Insects; Stars. $1.00 each.

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$50.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 85 *March, 1953*

Natural History Survey
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ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

(ORGANIZED IN 1897)

For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE

CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

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I. A. S. Newsletter

THIS COLUMN CONTINUES its policy of reporting news that is of interest to members of the Society. Members should consider this column as their own: any news that concerns Illinois bird students is worthy of contribution to these pages, and will be printed within the limits of the space available.

I. A. S. Spring Field Trip

THE ANNUAL FIELD TRIP of the Society will be held this year in conjunction with the Tri-City Bird Club in Rock Island and Moline, Illinois; the date is April 18 and 19. The meeting will begin with an afternoon session in the Davenport Public Museum (just across the Mississippi from Rock Island) at 2:00 o'clock on Saturday. A dinner and an evening program will follow. On Sunday morning, a hike is planned along the river in the Thompson-Savannah area; Canada, blue, snow and possibly white-fronted geese may be seen here, as well as shore birds. Members are urged to bring their cameras, binoculars and enthusiasm. The field trip will end in plenty of time to allow members from the eastern half of the state to drive home in daylight.

Reservations for the dinner must be made before April 4. Send your request with $2.50 for each person to Mr. Franklin McVey, 5845 Kingsdale Ave., Chicago 30, Illinois. Please indicate whether you will want hotel or motel accommodations, as reservations must be made in advance with Mr. Elton Fawks of the Tri-City Bird Club. Several bird groups from Iowa have also been invited to attend. Members from such inland areas as Rockford, Springfield and Princeton should find the Tri-City region especially interesting from a birder's standpoint; and the Tri-City Bird Club, one of the most active groups in the state, is working hard to provide a varied and enjoyable program. Members, the rest of it is up to you.

Bird Walks in Chicago Parks

MISS DORIS PLAPP, former Secretary of the Society, will resume her series of spring bird walks in Lincoln Park this year. Groups will meet at the Totem Pole at the foot of Addison Street, near the Outer Drive, on Saturday mornings at 7:30. The first hike is scheduled for March 21, and additional walks will be held each Saturday morning until May 23. Miss Plapp had led these walks for more than ten years; when she was unable to come out last spring because of illness, Mr. Harold Lenz filled in during her absence. We are happy that Miss Plapp can be back, and we send Mr. Lenz our thanks for a job well done.

The Educational Committee is making plans for more bird walks in other city and suburban parks this spring. Leaders are still very much needed. Any competent bird-watchers who feel they can spare even a few Saturdays or Sundays for this work are requested to write to the chairman, Mrs. Walter Huxford, 3027 Thayer St., Evanston, Illinois.

Thank You, Members

The response of the members of the Society to the letter regarding renewal of dues was most gratifying. More than thirty-five persons so far have changed from a $2.00 active membership to the $5.00 contributing membership. In addition, many members sent in donations to the Society to help defray the expenses of providing the Audubon Screen Tours at the Museum; the cost for these, incidentally, has been increased for the coming season. All members who have not already sent in their dues are urged to do so at once in order to save the Society the cost of extra billing and postage.

New State Appointees

Governor William Stratton has recently filled two state offices which are of special interest to members of the I. A. S. Miss Vera Binks is to be the new State Director of Registration and Education, and will be in charge of all wildlife sanctuaries in the state. Our Vice-President, Mrs. Walter S. Huxford, has already contacted Miss Binks and offered her the cooperation of the Society in providing more and better sanctuaries for birds in Illinois.

Mr. Glen D. Palmer of Yorkville, Illinois, has been appointed Director of the Conservation Department. He is qualified by many years of experience in conservation work. Mr. Palmer will play an important part in the decision to hunt mourning doves in Illinois; see the article on the mourning dove elsewhere in the *Bulletin.*

Free Lectures in Natural History

The Chicago Academy of Sciences offers a series of lectures on "Natural History of the Chicago Region" to be presented on the third Friday of each month in Albert Dickinson Hall, at 2001 N. Clark Street in Lincoln Park. The lecture for March 20 will be "The Development and Succession of Plants in Quaking Bogs" by Dr. Max Britton of Northwestern University. On Friday, April 17, our own William J. Beecher, of the Chicago Natural History Museum, will speak on "The Birds of the Chicago Area." Dr. Albert Wolfson of Northwestern University will discuss "The Problems of Bird Migration, with Emphasis on the Chicago Area" on May 15. All lectures begin at 8:00 p.m., and are open to the public.

No Room for More

Several interesting articles based on original observations were received by the editor, but could not be included because of the great length of this year's Christmas Census. Members who contributed articles may be re-assured that their work has been received and will appear.

Protection for Mourning Doves — III

By Paul H. Lobik

State Senator T. MacDowning, of Macomb, Illinois, has agreed to sponsor a bill in the State Legislature to prevent the hunting of mourning doves. This welcome news was received just before press-time from Dr. R. M. Strong, honorary president of the Illinois Audubon Society, who has been circulating petitions and contacting numerous Illinois nature study groups in support of the movement.

Senator MacDowning plans to present his bill in the senate without waiting for sponsorship of a similar bill in the house. Other state representatives and senators, however, have expressed interest in such a bill, and can be relied upon to help if given a little encouragement. These include:

Representatives

George S. Brydia	T. J. Sullivan
W. Roy Donohoo	Harry L. Topping
Joseph G. Kohout	G. William Horsley

Senators

T. MacDowning	Lottie Holman O'Neill
Milton Mueller	Clyde C. Trager

We understand from Mr. O. C. Perrin, editor of *The Prophetstown Echo*, that Rep. Brydia has been prevented from active support of the bill by the serious illness of his wife. Rep. Topping is actively interested in the bill; it is noteworthy that he was enlisted in this cause by Mr. Gordon Bell of Mazon, Illinois, who is a director of his local Rod and Gun Club. Although a hunter himself, Mr. Bell is opposed to the hunting of mourning doves because he believes that they are regarded as targets only, to be shot for "practice" and left to die; the early opening of the dove season means that all too often irresponsible hunters are given an opportunity to shoot rabbits, pheasants or ducks out of season.

Some of the many individuals who have expressed support of the dove legislation are Mr. John R. Cruttenden, Quincy; Mrs. C. B. Heath, Downers Grove; Mr. William Nottingham of the Springfield Nature League; and Dolores Bright, secretary of the Kahokia Nature League. The point of stressing all these names is that the campaign to stop hunting of mourning doves in Illinois is not just the private obsession of the I. A. S. and a few bird clubs; it is the spontaneous desire of a large number of people representing many groups all over the state.

The time has come for the next step. We must see to it that Sen. MacDowning has plenty of ammunition when he presents his bill before the legislature. By "ammunition" we mean signatures on petitions and letters from Illinois citizens favoring the bill. Write to Sen. T. MacDowning, 409 E. Carroll St., Macomb, Ill. If you have been keeping records of mourning doves over a period of years, and can prove that the number of nests or of total individuals has declined in your vicinity, send your figures to him.

Not so long ago, a naturalist referred to Illinois as "a conservation desert." The charge is justified as long as we permit the hunting of mourning doves, for neighboring states east, north and west of us, as well as Canada, protect this songbird. The dove is extremely valuable to farmers, as more than 80% of its diet is weed seeds; it also consumes large quantities of insects. Doves are now protected in 19 states; Canada has prohibited hunting of these birds for 40 years.

Signed petitions endorsing the mourning dove bill should be sent to Dr. R. M. Strong, c/o The Illinois Audubon Society, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Illinois. Mr. Guy Atherton, Director of Conservation Militant, Box 72, St. Paul, Minn., reports that he has so far collected over 1000 signatures from Illinois citizens. Extra copies of petitions may be obtained from Mr. Raymond Mostek, Chairman of the Dove Committee, 3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago, or from Miss Florence Cummings, 335 Belden Ave., Chicago 14, Illinois.

Once the bill is introduced in the house, and its number is known, members of the Society will be asked to write to their state legislators to vote for the bill. At that time it will also be advisable to write to Gov. William Stratton and to Mr. Glen Palmer, Director of the Department of Conservation, at Springfield. At last the movement to protect mourning doves is under way. Members, it's up to you to keep it moving. Get your letter in the mail now!

4835 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago 39, Illinois

Correction, Please!

Mr. Charles Kossack has called an error to our attention in the article, "Protection for Mourning Doves — II," on page 3 of the preceding issue of the *Bulletin*. The study of mourning dove populations being conducted by Mr. Kossack and Mr. Harold Hanson has been sponsored solely by the Illinois Natural History Survey, under the direction of Dr. Harlow B. Mills. The Illinois Audubon Society was not a co-sponsor of this work.

C. O. Decker Honored

Charles Olin Decker, who served for more than 20 years as Treasurer of the Illinois Audubon Society, was unanimously elected an Honorary Vice-President of the Society at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors. In conferring the title, the Directors recognized the fact that Mr. Decker has probably given more of his time and done more work for the Society than any other living person. In addition to the countless tasks he performed for the Society, he served for more than ten years as editor of the *Bulletin*.

Christmas Census — 1952

THIS YEAR'S BIRD COUNT produced a greater variety of species and a larger total of birds than ever before. Altogether, 107 different species and 41,584 individuals (including estimated counts) were reported. These increased figures are due to a larger number of groups (22) reporting their results and to a wider variety of areas covered than in previous years. Of course, since some of the areas were covered more than once during the census period, these totals show some duplication.

Mr. Karl Bartel, who has been collecting and forwarding these reports for many years, suggests that we show totals of species also. It would be possible to do this if we compiled our report in the form of a table, rather than in the summary form now used. A table would also permit easy comparisons of one area with another. We would appreciate hearing from members of the Society if they particularly favor or object to a tabulated census report.

Decatur, Macon county; 7½ mile radius centering at the Transfer House, and including Lake Decatur, Sangamon river, Steven's creek, and Big creek; Dec. 24; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; overcast with light snow flurries in the afternoon; temperature 30° to 35°; wind WSW-W, 10-15 m.p.h.; all water open; no snow on ground; water 30%, river and stream bottomlands 20%, thickets and weed areas 17%, open fields 10%, shore and marsh 8%, cutover woodlots 7%, scrubby pastureland 5%, evergreens 3%; 9 hours (7½ on foot, 1½ by car); 86 miles (15 on foot, 71 by car). Mallard, 2,564 (2,500 estimated, 64 counted); Black Duck, 689 (200 est., 489); Pintail, 11; Green-winged Teal, 6; Redhead, 11; Ring-necked Duck, 4; Canvas-back, 11; Lesser Scaup, 21; American Golden-eye, 30 (est.); American Merganser, 57; Buffle-head, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-White, 15; American Coot, 1; Killdeer, 6; Ring-billed Gull, 633 (400 est., 233); Yellow-shafted Flicker, 13; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 33; Horned Lark, 19; Blue Jay, 20; American Crow, 64; Black-capped Chickadee, 35; Tufted Titmouse, 49; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 9; Carolina Wren, 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Common Starling, 131 (100 est., 31); House Sparrow, 167 (115 est., 52); Red-winged Blackbird, 7; Cardinal, 95; American Goldfinch, 29; Eastern Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 34; Eastern Tree Sparrow, 169; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 32. Total: 41 species, 5,010 individuals. (Seen in area Dec. 22-28: Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; American Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 5; Osprey, 1; Mourning Dove, 2; Barred Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Winter Wren, 5; Northern Shrike, 1; Eastern Meadowlark, 1; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Purple Finch, 6.) — *Paul Rivard, Bob Kirby, Dean Fisher (compiler).*

Chicago, Cook county; (Foster Ave. south along the lake front to Armitage Ave. 51% lake front and harbors, 48% park lands, 1% golf courses. 8½ miles on bus and 4½ miles on foot.) 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Dec. 29, 1952; cloudy with light variable winds, SW to W. to NW. Temperature 28° F. rising to 37° F. by noon. Lake Michigan slushy, Montrose harbor frozen, Belmont harbor ½ open, and Lincoln Park ¼

open. Mallard, 79; Black Duck, 7; Red-head, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 1; American Golden-eye, 54; Buffle-head, 2; Old-Squaw, 1; American Merganser, 48; Red-breasted Merganser, 81; Pigeon Hawk, 1; American Coot, 1; Great Black-Backed Gull, 1; Herring Gull, 95; Ring-billed Gull, 48; Franklin's Gull, 1; Kittiwake Gull, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; American Crow, 2; American Robin, 1; Starling, 467; House Sparrow, 230; Eastern Meadowlark, 1; Cardinal, 2; Slate-Colored Junco, 5; Song Sparrow, 2; Snow Bunting, 8. Total: 26 species, 1126 individuals. — *Gene Lukasik, Jr. (compiler) and Jerry Mustoffa.*

Chicago, Cook county; (Desplaines river and Forest Preserves, Belmont Ave. to Irving Park Rd.) Dec. 30, 1952, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; 1% rivers, 1% golf courses, 40% fields, and 58% forest preserves. 10½ miles on bus and 3½ on foot. Cloudy with light variable winds, NW. to N. Temperature 35° F., rising to 41° F. by noon. Rivers frozen, wooded areas and fields frosted. Herring Gull, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 7; American Crow, 1000 (est.); Black-capped Chickadee, 12; Brown-capped Chickadee, 1; Brown Creeper, 15; Starling, 15; Eastern Meadowlark, 2; Cardinal, 2; American Goldfinch, 2; Tree Sparrow, 2. Total: 13 species, 1061 individuals. — *Wayne Kurtz, Gene Lukasik, Jr., (compiler) and Jerry Mustoffa.*

Chicago, Cook county; in Jackson park on Wooded Island and along the Inner and Yacht harbors; Dec. 25, (submitted for comparison with the census of Dec. 31, when different conditions prevailed); 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; ground bare, Inner harbor mostly open, especially around the south end; Yacht harbor open; partly cloudy; sunny; SW wind; temperature about 30°; 1¾ miles by foot. Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Canada Goose, 1; Mallard, 25 est.; Ring-necked Duck, 2; Canvas-back, 4; American Golden-eye, 50; Bufflehead, 4; Ruddy Duck, 1; American Merganser, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Herring Gull, 20 est.; Ring-billed Gull, 20 est.; Bonaparte's Gull, 100; American Robin, 1; Starling, 2 est.; Cardinal, 7; English Sparrow, 4. Total: 17 species, 245 individuals (est.). — *Ralph M. Eiseman.*

Chicago, Cook county; morning in Jackson Park along the Inner harbor, the Yacht harbor, and then south along the Promontory to 67th St.; the afternoon at the Calumet Flats; Dec. 31; 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., with one hour off for lunch and traveling to the Calumet Flats; total hours spent, 4; ground bare, little ice in harbors; cloudy; NE wind, temperature about 30° F; 4½ miles, 1¼ at Jackson Park, 3¼ at Calumet Flats. Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Mallard, 15 est.; Pintail, 4; Redhead, 2; Lesser Scaup, 1; American Golden-eye, 8 est.; Bufflehead, 5; American Merganser, 11; other ducks too far out to count or identify; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Killdeer, 3; Herring Gull, 1600 est.; Herring and Ring-billed Gulls mixed, 125 est.; Bonaparte's Gull, 2; Glaucous Gull, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, 4; Starling, 900 est.; English Sparrow, 25 est.; Cardinal, 3; Tree Sparrow, 15 est. Total: 19 species, 2729 individuals (est.). Cormorant and one Glaucous Gull in Jackson Park; Killdeer, most Herring Gulls, and the other Glaucous Gull at the Calumet Flats. — *Amy G. Baldwin and Ralph M. Eiseman (compiler).*

Chicago, Cook county; the Lake Front, including Jackson Park's south harbors, Northerly Island, Chicago harbor, Navy Pier, Lincoln Park lagoons, and Belmont and Montrose harbors; Dec. 30; 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; ground bare, lagoons and harbors mostly frozen over, pieces of ice in the lake; foggy in the morning, clearing up later, cloudy; S., SE, SW, and N winds; temperature about 30°. 13½ miles, 12½ by car, 1 by foot (short walks at certain areas); all observers in one party. Mallard, 56 est.; Black Duck, 3; American Golden-eye, 100 est.; Bufflehead, 3; Old-Squaw, 9; Lesser Scaup, 1; American Merganser, 200 est.; Ducks, species ?, number ? (too far out); Sparrow Hawk, 1; Herring Gull, 1, 100 est.; Ring-billed Gull, 40; Mixed Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, 175 est.; Bonaparte's Gull, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Starling, 100 est.; English Sparrow, 25 est.; Cardinal, 7. Total: 15 species, 2,028 (est.) individuals. — *Amy G. Baldwin, Ralph M. Eiseman, (compiler) Bill Moir, and Bob Nuner.*

Lake Bluff, Lake county. Waterfront on Lake Michigan, west on State Route 176 to St. Mary of the Lake Seminary grounds, Mundelein, and adjacent woods south. Then north on Route U.S. 45 two miles to old nursery west of highway, north to State Route 120 and east to Waukegan harbor and adjacent fields; Dec. 27; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; clear; temperature 15 to 25 degrees; wind NW-N, 15-20 mph; ground frozen with patches of light snow, open water in Lake Michigan and Waukegan harbor; seven observers together, using two cars; total hours, 7 (3 by car, 4 on foot); total miles, 30 (26 by car, 4 on foot). American Golden-eye, 20; Old-Squaw, 1; American Merganser, 50; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; American Rough-legged Hawk, 1; hawk, (*buteo* sp.) 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 4; Herring Gull, 520; Bonaparte's Gull, 15; Long-eared Owl, 12; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; American Crow, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; American Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 41; English Sparrow, 102; Rusty Blackbird, 30; Cardinal, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 44; Tree Sparrow, 69; Song Sparrow, 1. Total: 24 species, 935 individuals. — *Bill Bassel, Dr. R. D. Coghill, Harold Lenz, Mr. & Mrs. Russell L. Mannette, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred J. Zimmermann.*

Waukegan, Lake county. (Waukegan harbor south to Tower road in Winnetka.) Lake front and harbors, 22%, road observations, 78%. Most observations were made from the car. Cloudy with rain stopping in the afternoon. Winds strong from the east. Temperature 35° F., rising to 40° F. after the rain. All of the harbors open, lake very rough. Heavy fog in the late afternoon, visibility 20 feet. Dec. 20, 1952; 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Greater Scaup Duck, 4; American Golden-eye, 4; Old-Squaw, 1; White-winged Scoter, 1; American Scoter, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Glaucous Gull, 2; Herring Gull, 200; Ring-billed Gull, 3; Bonaparte's Gull, 3; American Crow, 5; Starling, 110; House Sparrow, 25; Rusty Blackbird, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 7. Total species: 15; 370 individuals. — *Mrs. Amy Baldwin, Mr. H. T. Dean, and Gene Lukasik, Jr.*

Lisle, DuPage county, Morton Arboretum: December 27, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (reported for comparison with the official C. O. S. census, which took place in the same area on the next day). Clear, sunshiny day,

very little wind, no snow or ice, temperature 15° F. at start, 25° F. at end. Five miles on foot, ten by auto. Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Rough-legged Hawk, 5; Mourning Dove, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Long-eared Owl, 9; Saw-whet Owl, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Prairie Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 4; American Crow, 50; Black-capped Chickadee, 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Starling, 25; English Sparrow, 25; Cardinal, 15; Purple Finch, 5; Common Redpoll, 75; Pine Siskin, 15; Common Goldfinch, 24; Slate-colored Junco, 5; Tree Sparrow, 50; Song Sparrow, 1. Total: 26 species, 345 individuals. — *Ray Grow, Val Nolan, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Campbell.*

Lisle, DuPage county, Morton Arboretum; December 28, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Southwest wind; clear; 17° F. at start, 33° at end. Five miles on foot, ten by auto. Coopers Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 3; Screech Owl, 1; Long-eared Owl, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Prairie horned Lark, 2; Blue Jay, 3; Common Crow, 34; Black-capped Chickadee, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Hermit Thrush, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Starling, 60; English Sparrow, 4; Cardinal, 5; Purple Finch, 2; Common Redpoll, 8; Pine Siskin, 14; Goldfinch 5; Slate-colored Junco, 17; Tree Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 2. Total: 28 species, 215 individuals. — *38 members of the Chicago Ornithological Society; Albert L. Campbell, Field Chairman.*

Palos Park, Cook county: December 25; covering six bird-banding and feeding stations of Dr. and Mrs. McQuarrie, Miss Alice Greenacre, Dr. and Mrs. Bressler, Dr. and Mrs. Helmuth, Mr. and Mrs. John Goes and Mr. and Mrs. A. Lord. Ground clear; temperature 26° F; raw SE wind; 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 31; Blue Jay, 10; Common Crow, 10; Black-capped Chickadee, 86; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 13; Brown Creeper, 8: Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cardinal, 8; Common Goldfinch, 1: Slate-colored Junco, 40; Tree Sparrow, 15. Total: 18 species, 243 individuals. So far, I have banded 61 Chickadees and had 25 return, with new ones coming in during the season. On December 14, I banded a Carolina Wren and also a female Red-bellied Woodpecker at the Goes station. We also saw an adult male Red-eyed Towhee feeding with a group of Slate-colored Juncoes. On January 4, 1953, I banded a female Red-eyed Towhee and saw a White-throated Sparrow at the Lord station. — *Alfred H. Reuss.*

Roadside — Riverside Census; Channahon, Will county. South to Morris in Grundy county and back to Channahon. Observations made south from Channahon, along tow-path of I. & M. Canal to Morris on the northwest side of the river. Then from Morris to Channahon on the south-east side of the Illinois river. Dec. 25; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; ½ mile on foot, 70 miles by auto. Temperature, 28°; partly cloudy; south-west wind; ground bare; 95% of water open. Observers in two cars. Horned Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 2; Canada Goose, 1; Mallard, 300+;

Black Duck, 150; Gadwall, 2; Pintail, 7; Redhead, 1; Canvas-back, 4; Greater Scaup, 1; Lesser Scaup, 25; Golden-eye, 50; Old-Squaw, 3; Ruddy Duck, 7; American Merganser, 10; Copper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 10; Bald Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 7; Herring Gull, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 1; Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 10; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 24; Blue Jay, 2; Common Crow, 20; Black-capped Chickadee, 18; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 14; Winter Wren, 3; Starling, 20; English Sparrow, 60; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 15; Common Goldfinch, 18; Slate-colored Junco, 30; Tree Sparrow, 60; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 5. Total: 45 species, 903 individuals. — *Karl E. Bartel (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Campbell, Harold Fetter, Helen Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Mensner.*

Roadside — Riverside Census: Channahon, Will county. South to Morris in Grundy county and back to Channahon. Observations made south from Channahon, along tow-path of I. & M. Canal to Morris on the northwest side of the DuPage River, and along the Illinois river. Then from Morris on the southeast side of the Illinois river, following the Kankakee river and Des Plaines river to Channahon. Jan. 3, 1953; 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; two miles on foot, 70 miles by auto. Temperature, 20° at start, 30° F. at end; cloudy; south-west wind, 20 miles per hour; ground bare; 75% open water; observers in one party of two cars until 2:00 p.m., when one party of two were one mile ahead of the second car. The second car followed the same route. Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great blue Heron, 4; Mallard, 5000+; Black Duck, 5000+; Pintail, 50; Redhead, 1; Canvas-back, 4; Lesser Scaup, 350; Golden-eye, 150; Bufflehead, 1; Ruddy Duck, 10; American Merganser, 50; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Rough-legged Hawk, 7; Marsh Hawk, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 3; Wilson Snipe, 1; Herring Gull, 125; Ring-billed Gull, 10; Rock Dove, 8; Short-eared Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Horned Lark, (?); Blue Jay, 2; Common Crow, 150; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 6; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; American Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 150; English Sparrow, 100; Eastern Meadowlark, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 2; Blackbird (Rusty or Brewer's ?), 25; Cowbird, 4; Cardinal, 8; Common Goldfinch, 12; Slate-colored Junco, 300; Tree Sparrow, 400; Field Sparrow, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; Swamp Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 7. Total: 52 species, 11,994 individuals. — *Alfred Campbell, Charles T. Clark and son, Laurie Binford, Karl E. Bartel (compiler), Richard Macoomber, J. O. Young, Floyd W. Zebell.*

Orland Park, Cook county; Orland Wildlife Preserve. Dec. 31, lake frozen except a hole here and there; cloudy; south-west wind; temperature 35° F.; ground bare; 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Observations made on Orland lake and roads surrounding lake. Mallard Duck, 10; Black Duck, 4; unidentified ducks, 35; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 14; Screech Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Common Crow, 2; Black-

capped Chickadee, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Starling, 4; English Sparrow, 30; Slate-colored Junco, 4; Tree Sparrow, 45. Total: 14 species, 135 individuals, plus 35 unidentified ducks. — *Karl E. Bartel.*

Blue Island, Cook county. In vicinity of Blue Island, Oak Hill banding station and fields west of Blue Island, December 20 to January 1. Birds listed below show largest number of individuals seen in one day. Ground bare, temperature ranged from 15° to 40° F. on some days. Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 3; Herring Gull, 150+; Screech Owl, 1; Long-eared Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 3; Common Crow, 20; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Starlings, 400+; English Sparrow, 50; Cardinal, 4; Goldfinch, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 6; Tree Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 1. Total: 19 species, 464+ individuals. — *Karl E. Bartel*

Waukegan, Lake county: Waukegan harbor, woods and fields; all water open; some birds were observed through the fence at the foot of Greenwood Ave., in warbler glen, in the garbage dump, and in Pines State Park from the south. Jan. 1, 1953; 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; ground bare; cloudy; temperature 33° F.; wind south; 12 observers together. Canvas-back, 8; Lesser Scaup, 50; Golden-eye, 100; Ruddy Duck, 2; Hooded Merganser, 1; American Merganser, 115; Red-breasted Merganser, 40; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Killdeer, 7; Wilson Snipe, 1; Herring Gull, 400+; Ring-billed Gull, 5; Bonaparte's Gull, 20; Great horned Owl, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Common Crow, 18; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 600+; English Sparrow, 40; Red-winged Blackbird (freshly killed by sparrow hawk), 1; Rusty Blackbird, 38; Brewer's Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 2; Common Redpoll, 11; Common Goldfinch, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 15; Tree Sparrow, 60; Song Sparrow, 1. Total: 34 species, 1554 individuals. — *Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin, Karl E. Bartel (compiler), Laurie Binford, Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Campbell, Charles T. Clark, Ralph Eiseman, Tom Kemper, Norman Lerch, Dr. J. O. Young, Mrs. Theron Wasson, Charles Westcott, Mrs. Janet Zimmermann.*

Bird Haven Sanctuary (Richland county). 7½-miles radius centering on Bird Haven, including city park, dump grounds, cemetery, Big creek, fields and woods easily reached by car; open farmlands 85%, deciduous forests 10%, parks and streets of Olney 5%. — Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy early, clearing by 10 a.m. Temperature 24° to 32° F.; wind light; no snow, some open water; 14 observers in 3 parties, 2 observers at feeding stations. Total party hours, 25½ (8 on foot, 17½ by car); total party miles, 198 (12 on foot, 186 by car). Red-tailed Hawk, 7; Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 15; Sparrow Hawk, 23; Prairie Chicken, 65; Bob-white, 9; Mourning Dove, 289; Screech Owl, 1; Great horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 33; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 24; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 38; Blue Jay, 149; Common Crow, 317; Carolina Chickadee, 65; Tufted Titmouse, 53; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 17; Mockingbird, 12; American

Robin, 1; Bluebird, 43; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Northern Shrike, 6; Starling, 540; English Sparrow, 689; Meadowlark, 224; Cardinal, 206; Purple finch, 2; Common Goldfinch, 34; Slate-colored Junco, 404; Tree Sparrow, 428; White-crowned Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 13. Total: 39 species; about 3741 individuals. (Seen in the area the week of the count, Canada Geese, 10; Short-eared Owl, 1; Bronzed Grackle, 2). — *Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bridges, Mr. and Mrs. Olin Groves, Hammel Haynes, Jr., Mrs. Minnie Hundley, Jimmie Kermicle, Carol Scherer, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Scherer, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Shaw, Pearl Stine, Perna M. Stine (compiler)*. At feeding stations: *Mrs. R. F. Gibson, Mrs. Mary Chaplin.*

Note to the Editor: Judging from the reports of interested farmers from the area covered, we counted about half the prairie chickens in the county. One farmer maintains that some 35 birds destroyed a patch of wheat for him last summer. *Perna M. Stine, R.R. #5, Olney, Illinois*

Kankakee River State Park, Lake Village, Newton county, Indiana; Beaver Lake Prairie Chicken Refuge, Lake Village; Willow Slough Game Preserve, Enos, Newton county. December 27; ground bare; most lakes, ponds and rivers frozen; clear; temperature 22° at start, 30° F. at end; north-west wind; 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 80 miles by auto, 6 miles on foot. Great blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 42; Snow Goose, 3; Mallard, 175; Black Duck, 10; Pintail, 17; Canvas-Back, 1; American Golden-eye, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 7; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Prairie Chicken, 8; Mourning Dove, 1; Short-eared Owl, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Prairie horned Lark, 40; Blue Jay, 10; Common Crow, 18; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 55; English Sparrow, 85; Cardinal, 9; Purple Finch, 12; Common Goldfinch, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 22; Tree Sparrow, 150; Song Sparrow, 5; Lapland Longspur, 7. Total: 38 species, 713 individuals. — *Dr. J. O. Young, Karl E. Bartel (compiler)*.

Michigan City, Lake county, Indiana; 7½ mile radius centering on Beverley Shores and highway U.S. 12, east to Michigan City, west to Baileytown; lake shore 40%, deciduous woods 20%, marsh 15%, coniferous woods 10%, river bank 5%, tamarack bog 5%, dwellings 5%; Dec. 21; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Overcast; temp. 38° to 36° F.; wind NW, 9 m.p.h. Dense fog after 7:15 a.m., limiting visibility on Lake Michigan to 50 yards. Intermittent drizzle. All water open; ground bare. Ten observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 20½ (17½ on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 84 (19 on foot, 65 by car). Common Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 3; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Mallard, 8; Black Duck, 14; Pintail, 2; Shoveller, 5; Redhead Duck, 8; Canvas-back, 7; Lesser Scaup, 2; American Golden-Eye, 12; Buffle-head, 108; Old-Squaw, 250; White-winged Scoter, 1; American Merganser, 10; Red-breasted Merganser, 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; American Coot, 2; Herring Gull, 520; Ring-billed Gull, 155; Bonaparte's Gull, 75; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Hairy Woodpecker,

11; Downy Woodpecker, 26; Blue Jay, 25; Common Crow, 25; Black-capped Chickadee, 42; Tufted Titmouse, 14; White-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1 (seen at 20 yards with 7X glasses; seen same spot in October and November); Starling, 39; English Sparrow, 46; Red-winged Blackbird, 45; Rusty Blackbird, 44 (flock in area since September); Cardinal, 31; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Purple Finch, 49; Common Redpoll, 25; Common Goldfinch, 25; Slate-colored Junco, 132; Tree Sparrow, 302; Swamp Sparrow, 23; Song Sparrow, 22. Total: 47 species; 2,142 individuals. ((Reported during count period: Marsh Hawk, Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Robin). — *Walter Graper, Nora Grow, Raymond Grow (compiler), John Hawkinson, Virginia Reuter-Skiold, Muriel Schnayer, Jean Segal, Simon Segal, Joel X. Sweet, Merrill Sweet.*

Jasper-Pulaski State Game Preserve, Medaryville, Indiana. (Entire preserve area, plus observations north on State Highway 421). — Dec. 28; 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Clear; temperature 18° to 24° F.; wind SW, 20 m.p.h.; ground bare, some small springs and ditches open, but rest of marsh frozen. Six observers in one party. Total party-hours, 7½ (5 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 40 (7 on foot, 33 by car). Canada Goose, 1700 (est.); Blue Goose, 1; Mallard, 700 (est.); Black Duck, 500 (est.); Pintail, 14; Green-winged Teal, 7 (seen in flight and at rest with 20X scope); Shoveller, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Golden Eagle, 1 (immature; seen by all observers with glasses and 20X scope; ring-tail and white wing patches easily seen); Marsh Hawk, 4; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Mourning Dove, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Horned Lark, 3; Blue Jay, 44; Common Crow, 52; Black-capped Chickadee, 16; Tufted Titmouse, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 55; Starling, 36; English Sparrow, 50; Red-winged Blackbird, 30; Cardinal, 9; Common Goldfinch, 8; Slate-colored Junco, 75+; Tree Sparrow, 150; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 10. Total: 32 species, about 3,504 individuals. — *Nora Grow, Raymond Grow (compiler), Jean Segal, Simon Segal, Joel X. Sweet, Merrill Sweet.*

Northern Porter county, Indiana; from Lake-Porter county boundary line east to Baileytown; deciduous woods 50%; marsh 20%; lake shore 10%; lawns and shrubs 10%; river bank 5%; coniferous woods 5%; Dec. 26; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; temperature 26° to 21° F.; wind SW, 16 m.p.h. Ground bare, all water except Lake Michigan and Burns Ditch frozen. Two observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 8 (7 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 15 (12 on foot, 3 by car). Horned Grebe, 1; Redhead, 1; Lesser Scaup, 6; American Golden-Eye, 13; Bufflehead, 10; Old-Squaw, 8; American Merganser, 4; Herring Gull, 63; Ring-billed Gull, 100; Bonaparte's Gull, 160; Great Horned Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 6; Starling, 2; English Sparrow, 32; Cardinal, 8; Common Redpoll, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 50; Tree Sparrow, 100; Song Sparrow, 1. Total: 22 species, 571 individuals. (Seen during count period: Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Mallard, Pintail, Purple

Finch, Field Sparrow.) — *Raymond Grow (compiler), Virginia Reuter-Skiold.*

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Around entire lake by car, stopping at suitable localities for observations. December 26; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lake entirely free of ice. Group in two cars, mostly together; 55 miles by car, 5 miles on foot. Wind NW; ground bare with a few spots of snow; visibility ¼ mile in fog and clouds; temperature 25° at start, 32° F. at end. Horned Grebe, 2; Pied-billed Grebe, 9; Canada Goose, 1; Mallard Duck, 60; Black Duck, 50; Gadwall, 2; Redhead, 15; Ring-necked Duck, 220; Canvas-back, 300; Lesser Scaup, 75; American Golden-eye, 125; Bufflehead, 25; Ruddy Duck, 30; Hooded Merganser, 12; American Merganser, 100; Red-breasted Merganser, 100; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 3; American Coot, 150; Herring Gull, 30; Ring-billed Gull, 12; Screech Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Horned Lark, 2; Blue Jay, 14; Common Crow, 25; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Brown Creeper, 5; American Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Starling, 7; English Sparrow, 15; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 11; Common Redpoll, 7; Pine Siskin, 17; Common Goldfinch, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 7; Tree Sparrow, 35; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 3. Total: 47 species, 1525 individuals. — *Earl Anderson, Karl Bartel, Laurie Binford, Charles T. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Campbell, C. O. Palmquist (compiler).*

Conservation News and Notes

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Prairie Chicken. The National Wildlife Federation has created a "National Committee on the Prairie Chicken" with Mr. R. A. Brown, attorney, of St. Joseph, Missouri, as chairman, and with 14 other members. Illinois is represented by Dr. Ralph E. Yeatter of Urbana, Ill. The members of the committee were chosen from states which still have flocks of these disappearing birds. Only four states — Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin — still had enough prairie chickens to get limited hunting seasons this past year. It is a pity that this fine bird has open seasons anywhere, in view of the great danger of its being exterminated. A portrait of the prairie chicken was included in the last issue of conservation stamps published by the National Wildlife Federation.

Department of Conservation. Governor William G. Stratton has appointed Mr. Glen Palmer of Yorkville, Illinois, as director of the state Department of Conservation. Mr. Palmer has had long experience in game management, particularly under the father of the new governor, many years ago. It is reported that Mr. Palmer had the first game farm ever established anywhere, and he has conducted it for years.

Meanwhile, another effort is being made to change the setup for the state Department of Conservation, under the leadership of the Illinois Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. Similar efforts have been made in

previous years, and a bill to provide for a conservation commission nearly passed in the last legislature. This legislation aims at improving the possibilities for political pressure. In Illinois, the conservation director is appointed by the governor, and the department is supported by hunting and fishing license fees with contributions from the Pittman-Robertson funds. Both the governor and the director of conservation are under great patronage pressure, and this has resulted in many weak appointments and practices.

It appears to be impracticable to take the Department of Conservation entirely out of politics, but a step in this direction is made when appointments are initiated by a board or commission, as is the case in a number of states. Such an arrangement was made by popular vote in Louisiana on Nov. 4, and in recent years by Missouri. The commission is appointed by the governor, who is then relieved of political patronage pressure, if he wishes to be, and can only make suggestions to the commission. The members of the commission are appointed for six years on "staggered" terms, and they appoint the director and other officers of the department, including the game wardens. The arrangement aims at securing appointments by more than one governor unless he is reelected; the commission must be bipartisan.

A great difficulty in any system of appointment of the director is that the people who are most aggressive in asking for appointments are the vote getters and the sportsmen. Some of the sportsmen are enlightened conservationally, but many are not. However, the commission arrangement appears to work better than what Illinois has.

Too small a number of people are interested enough in conservation to give effective support to wildlife legislation and its enforcement. The bird watchers, of course, do not like extermination or scarcity of birds, but not many of them do much about it. That we have as many birds as still exist is due mostly to their ability to fly.

When this was written, it was reported that legislation on a conservation commission would probably not be attempted in this session of the legislature of Illinois, but would be delayed until 1954. Meanwhile, we should be studying the program and getting ready. Statewide promotion was conducted in Missouri and Louisiana in order to achieve success.

5716 Stony Island Ave., Chicago

The Chicago Ornithological Society

By Mrs. Theron Wasson

The Chicago Ornithological Society now meets the third Wednesday evening of each month, rather than Tuesday. The place of meeting has also been changed from the Chicago Natural History Museum to the Central Y.M.C.A., 19 So. La Salle St. Members who wish, have dinner together at 6:30 p.m. The forty-five minutes between dinner and the formal meeting (which begins at 8:00 p.m.) is spent in exchanging birding experiences and as a social hour.

The Society is working on the manuscript of "Birds of the Chicago

Region," by Edward R. Ford and Philip DuMont. This manuscript has been at the Chicago Academy of Sciences since its completion in 1949. The paper is now being re-read and will be brought up-to-date with records of unusual occurrences. It will be printed by the Chicago Academy of Sciences as soon as it is completed.

The Society wishes to obtain and preserve as a permanent file all records of special interest relating to birds of the Chicago region. Mr. Albert L. Campbell, Field Chairman, will keep these records and make reports to the Society from time to time. Please send him information about uncommon birds you may see, and also anything of interest about our common birds, including first and last migration dates, nesting information, etc. Mr. Campbell's address is 2028 So. Third Ave., Maywood; phone Fillmore 3-7780. He reports to Mr. Val Nolan Jr., 806 So. Henderson St., Bloomington, Indiana, who is editor for the Mid-Western Area of "Audubon Field Notes." Every one doing field work is urged to send unusual records to Mr. Campbell promptly.

Officers of the C.O.S. this year are: Mrs. Theron Wasson, President, 606 Thatcher Ave., River Forest, Ill.; Karl E. Bartel, First Vice-President; Alfred H. Reuss, Jr., Second Vice-President; Albert L. Campbell, Field Chairman; and Holly Reed Bennett, Secretary-Treasurer, 134 So. La Salle St., Chicago 3, Ill. Field trips are held on Sundays at least once a month, and twice a month during migrations. Those wishing to participate should write to the Field Chairman.

New Field Card of "Birds of the Chicago Area"

The Chicago Natural History Museum has printed a new field card of "Birds of the Chicago Area" in an edition of 5,000. This card was prepared by a committee of the Chicago Ornithological Society consisting of Richard Zusi, Theodore Nork and Mrs. Paul Stephenson, with Charles Clark as consultant. It will be sold by the Book Shop of the Chicago Natural History Museum at $2.50 per hundred over the counter, or $2.75 per hundred or ten for 30c postpaid.

The new card is the same size as the old one. The printing, however, is clearer, with more space after each species for noting numbers or symbols. The birds are grouped under family names so that it is easier to locate the species on the card. Two hundred and seventy-six species are listed, including four sub-species and two hybrids. An asterisk after the name indicates those birds nesting in the area, and a dagger, those which are rare but are seen more than once in five years.

The "Chicago Area" includes an area about 100 miles around Chicago — the southern counties in Wisconsin, northern counties in Indiana, and Berrien County in Michigan. This is the same area that is included in "Birds of the Chicago Region" by Edward Ford, Colin Sanborn and C. B. Coursen. The card provides more space for weather data, the importance of which is being increasingly appreciated. The back page is blank, to be used for notes of special interest on the trip.

606 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest, Illinois

Evanston Bird Club

By Mrs. Betty B. Mannette

The purpose of the Evanston Bird Club is to promote education in wildlife, birdlore, and the conservation of our natural resources. Program meetings are held in the downstairs lecture room of Evanston Public Library at 7:45 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month from September to April, inclusive (except December). These meetings are open to the public.

We have a collection of bird slides, and our members use these when called upon to give talks at various club and school groups in the community. We also maintain a booth at the Garden Club Fair each spring. Field trips are scheduled regularly every week during the spring migration, and semi-monthly during the fall migration. Shore trips are held in August, and special trips at other times of the year. Two youth walks are held each year for children 8 to 14 years of age, one in the spring and one in the fall. Announcements of all trips are mailed to members. We also supply leaders for special groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Campfire Girls, etc.

Current officers of the Club are: President, Mrs. Reba Campbell; Vice-President, Mr. Harry Smith; Recording Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Harvey Davids; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Albert Zimmermann; Auditor, Mr. Charles Zusi.

1953 Spring trips and areas to be visited are:

SUNDAYS (Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Central St. "L" Station, Evanston): March 15, Orland Wildlife Preserve; April 19, Naperville, Ill.; April 26, Eustice Estate (adult and youth walk); May 3, Eggers Woods; May 17, Waukegan Area.

FRIDAYS (Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Central St. "L" Station, Evanston): March 20, Des Plaines River area north; April 24, Linne' Woods; May 1, Lincoln Park; May 8, Memorial Park and Rose Hill Cemetery; May 15, Deerfield area; May 22, Saganashkee Slough and Palos Park.

An early morning warbler walk is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20. The meeting time is 6:00 a.m. at the "L" Station, and participants should bring breakfast.

We feel that the Evanston Bird Club contributes to the life of the community by keeping alive an interest in our native wild birds and the conservation of our natural resources. All interested persons are invited to join the Club and to participate in its activities.

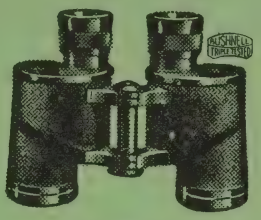
1608 Ashland Ave., Evanston, Illinois

Editor's Note: Two additional reports on affiliated clubs, from the Decatur and the Wheaton Audubon Societies, were received. Unfortunately, this issue is too crowded to permit inclusion of these articles, but they will appear next time. We welcome all reports of activities of the local Illinois bird clubs and are glad to publish accounts of their history and growth. Contributions should be sent to the attention of the Editor.

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A Guide to Bird Watching, by Joseph J. Hickey. $4.00.

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THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$50.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

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Natural History Survey
Library

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Protection for Mourning Doves — IV

By Paul H. Lobik

The Mourning Dove Protection Bill has become a reality at last. Rep. G. William Horsley of Sangamon County has introduced into the State Assembly H. R. 514, a bill which designates the mourning dove a songbird, thus removing it from the list of game birds to be hunted in Illinois.

The Springfield Nature League, led by Mrs. N. S. Dorosheff, Publicity Chairman, and Mr. William Nottingham, Conservation Chairman, deserve a major share of the credit for obtaining the support of Rep. Horsley. The bill has been referred to the Conservation and Waterways Committee of the Assembly for consideration. Members should write at once to Rep. Rollie C. Carpenter, Chairman, and Rep. Claude D. Travers, Vice-Chairman of this committee, requesting their recommendation that H. R. 514 be enacted into law. United action by our members is essential if this legislation is to pass.

Events have come quickly following the introduction of the bill. The sports section of the *Chicago Daily News* printed two articles on the dove bill by Jim Mitchell, outdoor writer, on May 5 and 6, in which the bill was attacked as a threat to the rights of Illinois hunters. Your Editor answered with an "Open Letter to the News," criticizing Mr. Mitchell's articles point by point. The salient arguments in this letter were printed in the *News* by Mr. Mitchell on May 19. On succeeding days appeared other replies, from Guy Atherton, Director of Conservation Militant, St. Paul, Minn., defending the stand of the conservationist, and from Mrs. Clarence B. Heath of Downers Grove, describing property damage caused by thoughtless hunters. Mr. Mitchell has given a fair account of the claims made by his critics.

Interestingly enough, Dr. R. M. Strong reports that Robert Becker, Outdoors Editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, feels that both the mourning dove and the wood duck should be removed, temporarily at least, from the game bird list. He has observed that these species suffered heavily from hunting last fall, and have not returned in their usual numbers this spring.

Dr. Strong visited Springfield the week of May 11 and presented the views of the I.A.S. on the Mourning Dove Bill before Rep. Horsley, Rep. Brydia and Rep. Carpenter. Later he spoke at the annual meeting of the Springfield Nature League. The Conservation Committee of the League will provide on-the-spot support of the Mourning Dove Bill when the legislative group meets again on May 27 to complete its hearing.

Miss Florence V. Cummings of Chicago, who has been assisting our Dove Committee Chairman, Mr. Raymond Mostek, traveled to Springfield at her

own expense to attend a preliminary hearing on the bill on May 20. She reports that Rep. Horsley presented a splendid argument for the mourning dove, and deserves a letter of thanks from I.A.S. members. She had hoped to bring us news of a favorable decision on the bill, and was disappointed when action was deferred for a week.

The fate of mourning doves in Illinois will be decided in the next few days. Assuming that the bill will go to the floor of the State Assembly for a vote, here is what the members should do: Write to the Illinois Audubon Society, % The Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Illinois, and ask for the list of names and addresses of our state representatives. (This list is described in Dr. Strong's "Conservation News and Notes" elsewhere in this issue.) Then write to the state representatives and state senators from your district, as well as the assemblymen mentioned earlier. Ask them to vote for the Mourning Dove Protection Bill, H. R. 514. In this way you will do your part to make it possible for coming generations of Illinois children to hear the voice of the dove in our land.

Incidentally, the Stockmen's Bills described by Dr. Strong in his article, also constitute a grave threat to the Middle West. National Forests in the Great Lakes area have been the target of land-grabbing and exploitation in the past, and will be again if these bills succeed. A letter now to your Congressman and the two Illinois Senators is the best way to guarantee that our National Parks and Forests will not be despoiled.

4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39

Bird Records for Northern Illinois

By Albert L. Campbell

Burrowing owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) — Collected March 27, 1953, at 97th street and Torrence avenue, Chicago, by a student at Bowen high school, where Miss Selma Jones teaches biology. She obtained the specimen and had it mounted for the collection at Bowen. This Western owl is a rare visitor in the Chicago area.

A second burrowing owl was observed by Mrs. Theron Wasson and Mrs. John Shawvan, of the Chicago Ornithological Society, in April, 1953, on Lambert Road, south of Glen Ellyn. This bird was seen independently by Mrs. Amy Baldwin, and later by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Campbell.

Harris's sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) — Appeared early last December at feeding station of Mrs. S. L. McCoy, Route 1, Box 250, Elgin. (Located one-half mile west of Bartlett Road on Route 19.) The bird has spent the winter at the station and is still there. It has changed color and is singing all day long. We both saw and heard this rare visitor.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) — Came to feeding station of Mrs. Rollin D. Wood, 181 de Windt Road, Winnetka, on December 20, 1952, and was still there this month. Mrs. Wood reports that the bird eats the suet mostly, but sometimes eats the berries from the bitter-sweet vine. This bird seldom appears in the Chicago area, and has not been known to spend the winter this far north before.

2028 S. Third Ave., Maywood

Westward, Ho! Continued

By Mrs. Amy Baldwin

For the second half of my Western trip (see the September, 1952 *Audubon Bulletin*) I spent two weeks at the Audubon Camp of California, from June 14th to 28th, at the 7,000 foot elevation of Donner Summit in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Leaving Los Angeles on the Southern Pacific Railroad, I had a fifteen-hour journey during the night to Sacramento. Enroute we went through a two-mile tunnel in the mountains which possibly was the very one damaged by the earthquake three to four weeks later. Awakening at day-break, I enjoyed country entirely new to me. Two large, unusual fields attracted my attention while in the diner for breakfast. Inquiring what they could be, I was told they were rice paddies. I saw an American Egret fly up as our train sped by. I had seen rice before, growing along a stream in the north woods of Michigan, but there an Indian with his squaw was harvesting the rice into a boat as she paddled along.

From Sacramento I took a Greyhound Bus to Soda Springs, where the station wagon took us up to the camp at Sugar Bowl Valley. The scenery was beautiful — mountainous country with much snow still on the slopes, although it was the middle of June. The weather was delightful and the air was dry, so we didn't mind the cold as we do here in Chicago where we have so much moisture.

There was no rain for the two weeks until the last two days in camp. That seemed like a record, but even so we longed for nice weather, there was so much to do those last two days. We saw snow and rain, and on our last trip had quite a hail storm. Our first day or two was spent rather quietly around camp, getting acquainted and becoming acclimated to the altitude. Pussy-willows were blooming, and as soon as the snow melted vegetation began springing up.

We had five instructors, with studies in birds, plants, invertebrates, other vertebrates, land forms and nature activities. On our field trips we all assembled as a group and each instructor talked on his particular subject. Then each one took his group to cover the field as much as possible up to a certain time, when we all assembled again and each group gave a report on what they had seen and learned.

Mountains, woods and glacier meadows were studied. The meadows were full of different kinds of flowers, stonecrop, pussy paws, caterpillar plant, self-heal, wild bleeding heart, penstemons and Indian paint-brush, and there were many flowering plants growing out of the rocks. I was glad to find a Mariposa lily growing, and close by I saw a rock wren.

There were many small flowers, but one was most intriguing, a tiny plant in bloom; it was found growing close to the ground in pine needles. It looked like a tiny bleeding heart, but the instructor told us it was called a steer's-heart. A saprophyte of beauty was the snow plant, one of those with no chlorophyll. Bright red, it was an interesting plant, growing generally along the edge of a melting snow bank. The flowers are ½ to ¾ inch

long, closely crowded around a main stem. The stems are erect, stout and fleshy, 9 to 18 inches high and an inch or more thick.

The road to Soda Springs was blocked with snow drifts, so we had to use another route which was much rougher, but lovely just the same. We were camped between the two lakes of Norden and Donner. Both were good places for birds. We saw marmots from time to time, but no conies, although they were seen other years. Possibly they had not yet awakened from their long winter nap. Mountain quail were heard often, but only one was seen by a few of us from the station wagon. Mountain blue birds, mountain chickadees, green-tailed towhees, rock wrens, fox sparrows, evening grosbeaks, abundant warbling vireos, western pewees, western tanagers, white-crowned sparrows, Oregon juncos, hermit thrushes, Audubon and pileolated warblers, were around camp with the Sierra finches. We heard the song of the hermit thrush from the top of a high fir tree.

On Monday we all assembled at 8:30 a.m., and from then on our classes began in earnest, each day from 8:30 to noon — then luncheon and rest period. Field work was done from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m., dinner was at six, and from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. there were lectures or pictures. We had many fine trips by station wagon to study the different environments. I was up nearly every morning at 5:00 a.m., and the two hours before breakfast gave me many nice experiences. It was too early to see the birds I was hearing, so I went as far from camp as possible in the dawn so that I could watch the birds but still return for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. As the sun rose, it colored the mountains with a beautiful Alpine glow.

Birds were starting to nest; robins were all over the place. A very unusual record was that of a junco building a nest under the eaves above our window. When we told this to our leaders, we had to show them the nest to prove our statement, for the junco is a ground nesting bird. When the Clark's nutcrackers came to camp, those who wanted to see them most could not be found, which was quite a disappointment, as the birds only appeared once.

I was very glad to see the white-headed woodpecker, for Miss Belle Wilson told me she had looked for that woodpecker ten years before she found him. However, I was disappointed not to find the dipper, for I had high hopes of seeing it at Boulder, Colorado the year before but failed, and then I failed again at Sugar Bowl. Because of the heavy snows, it might have been delayed until after I had left there. The red-breasted sapsucker and California woodpecker were both colorful birds. I saw the California woodpecker and red-breasted nuthatch building their nests in the same old tree stump without any interference from the golden and ruby-crowned kinglets and Sierra brown creepers, which were there in numbers.

For any one in the Mid-Western states to go to this camp from the prairies to the mountains provides a valuable education. I can highly recommend it to any one who would care to join a fine group of like-minded people. I have met some good friends through these contacts.

6335 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois

The Annual Meeting

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY held its annual meeting in the Chicago Natural History Museum on Sunday, March 22, 1953. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Harry Smith; about 45 members were present.

Mr. Smith introduced the Directors and Officers of the Society. Treasurer John Helmer gave his report, as follows:

Treasurer's Report

July 1, 1952 to February 28, 1953

Operating Account: Balance July 1, 1952				$ 411.55
Receipts:	Dues, Contributing	$325.00		
	Active	454.00	$779.00	
	Investment Income		514.83	
	Sales		216.91	
	Donations		42.00	1552.74
				$1964.29
Payments:	*Bulletins*, 1952, three issues		$516.97	
	1954 Screen Tours, ½ contract		200.00	
	Lecture, Projection Expense		56.25	
	Envelopes and folders		128.86	
	Printing, postage, miscellaneous		297.21	1199.29
	Balance, February 28, 1953			$ 765.00

No endowment funds have been received, nor have there been any other material changes in the Investment Account. Principal expenses budgeted for the balance of the year are the March and June *Bulletins*, about $350.00 for printing, and the balance of the 1953-54 Screen Tour contract, $200.00.

Respectfully submitted

JOHN HELMER, *Treasurer*

Mrs. Walter Huxford, Third Vice-President, described the work of the Education Committee in distributing free literature and circulating color slides. She and Director Frank McVey have given nature talks before young people's groups. Mrs. Huxford called for more leaders for the spring bird walks in Chicago parks; so far, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mostek and Miss Doris Plapp have volunteered their services.

Director Raymond Mostek reported on the work of the Mourning Dove Protection Committee; while several members of the State Legislature favor a bill protecting the dove, none has presented a bill so far. Dr. Alfred Lewy pointed out that the Illinois Natural History Survey has reported

declining numbers of doves. Dr. R. M. Strong stated that he has over 1,000 signatures on petitions, and that he feels a downstate representative will soon introduce such a bill. President Smith suggested that we work for the support of Women's, Garden, and P.T.A. clubs. On the motion of Mrs. Marjorie Ford, the members unanimously passed a second resolution favoring the protection of mourning doves in Illinois.

Mr. Smith reported that membership in the Society has remained about the same, but that the number of contributing members has increased. Editor Paul Lobik gave a brief report on the work of the Editorial Committee.

Mr. McVey, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, recommended that the terms of four Directors be renewed: Harold Lenz, Dr. Alfred Lewy, Charles Kendeigh and Dr. Ralph Yeatter. He also nominated Mr. Elton Fawks, President of the Tri-City Bird Club. Mrs. Pauline Esdale, a former Director, and Miss Marie Nilsson, both of Chicago, were nominated from the floor. The seven nominees were elected by unanimous vote.

Mr. Fawks, who had traveled from East Moline to attend the meeting, described the plans for the Annual Field Trip, to be held at Davenport, Iowa, in conjunction with the Tri-City Bird Club. Mr. McVey, Chairman of the Meeting Committee, asked the members to make their reservations before April 4th.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m., and the members proceeded to the lecture hall to hear an Audubon Screen Tour by Robert Hermes.

4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39

Bird Records for the Tri-Cities

By Elton Fawks

We of the Tri-city area (Moline, East Moline and Rock Island, Ill.) have a few unusual bird records for the year 1952. Sometimes we travel far and sometimes we search close at hand to find rare birds; at other times we are completely at ease in our homes and not even thinking about birds when they force their attention on us. Twice this happened to me this past summer. On May 13th, while sitting in my yard along the Mississippi river, I heard strange sounds. Looking up, I was surprised to see 20 Hudsonian Curlews flying towards me. They flew low over my head and across to Iowa, calling all the while. Another evening, Sept. 14th, one of my boy scouts called from his boat and asked me if I had twenty minutes to spare. When I declined, he stated that several large pelican-like birds were upstream on a little sand island. I suddenly found plenty of time. A short ride brought a pleasant reward. Nine White Pelicans were on the little island. People living close by said they had been there about three weeks. They were not seen again.

This past fall, both the Red-backed and Baird's Sandpipers were found. The Red-backed is seldom found here, although it is common on Lake Michigan. The Baird's, of course, is very rare here. One Semi-palmated

Sandpiper with a useless leg was watched for some time. It carried the leg straight out in front and seemed to get along quite well. A Worm-eating Warbler spent several weeks this fall in the yard of Don Swensson of Moline.

The Oct. 16th issue of a local paper carried an item about some hunters flushing eight or nine "White Swans". A Mr. Carl Graham killed a female American Scoter on the Mississippi near Muscatine, Iowa. The bird was killed on the Illinois side of the river. Last year the same man killed a female King Eider Duck near New Boston, Illinois. Both birds are now in possession of the Davenport, Iowa Public Museum.

Box 112, Route 1, East Moline, Illinois



Annual Meeting and Field Trip

THE JOINT MEETING of the Illinois Audubon Society and the Tri-City Bird Club was held in the Moline-Rock Island-Davenport area on Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, 1953. More than 45 persons (18 from the Chicago area) registered for the program at the Davenport Public Museum, and 90 members and guests enjoyed a chicken dinner at the Watchtower Inn in Blackhawk State Park. Full credit for a highly successful and interesting meeting should be given to Elton Fawks, President of the Tri-City Bird Club; Frank McVey, Chairman of the Meeting Committee; and Mrs. E. L. Swain, Program Chairman and Field Trip Leader.

The meeting began early Saturday morning with bird walks on Credit Island, Iowa. The program at the Davenport Museum began at 2:00 p.m. when Elton Fawks welcomed the Society in the name of the Tri-City Club. Mr. Lowell Miller, Museum Director, added his greeting, and then came the lecture program, as follows:

Mrs. E. L. Swain—*Introduction to the Tri-City Area*
(Paper by Thomas J. Morrissey)

James Hodges—*Recent Changes in Local Bird Life*
(Paper read by a high school student)

Elton Fawks—*Comparison between Tri-Cities and Chicago*

Msgr. Thomas Feeney—*Birds of the Bible*

Mrs. Leo Doering—*On Retaining Our Amateur Status*
(Paper by Msgr. Thomas Feeney)

Peter Petersen, Jr.—*A Study of Owl Pellets*

Thomas J. Morrissey—*Bird Parasites*

Mrs. Walter Huxford—*Birding Along the Lake Michigan Shore*

Norwood Hazard—*Bigamy in a Cardinal Family*

Paul H. Lobik—*Birding in the Chicago Area*

The group then adjourned to the Watchtower Inn, Blackhawk State Park, Rock Island, Illinois, for the dinner and evening program. Paul Downing, First Vice-President of the I.A.S., gave a welcoming speech, and Karl Bartel, President of the Inland Bird-Banding Association, spoke on the "Methods and Findings of a Bird-Bander." Norwood Hazard concluded with reminiscences of "Birding at the Audubon Camp in Maine," illustrated by his excellent color slides.

On Sunday the group re-assembled at 7:30 a.m. in the Palmer School Cafeteria, Davenport, for breakfast, and then started on the field trip. It was a raw, cold, cloudy day, with snow and sleet falling at intervals, but 51 persons turned out in 16 cars. The caravan drove along the Mississippi to Clinton, Iowa, crossed to the Illinois side, and proceeded through Savanna to the Palisades State Park, stopping often to observe birds along the route. At 2:00 p.m. the group met in the Palisades to compare notes and add up the birds seen by all persons in the party. The total reached 98 species! The Chicago members then headed for home, driving in and out of snowstorms all the way.

We are indebted to Elton Fawks and Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Field Trip Chairman, for the following list of birds seen. Rarities are starred:

Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
*White Pelican
Double-Crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
American Egret
American Bittern
Mallard
Black Duck
Gadwall
Baldpate
Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Blue-Winged Teal
Shoveller
Wood Duck
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Canvas-back
Lesser Scaup Duck
Bufflehead
Ruddy Duck
American Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
*Krider's Red-tailed Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Marsh Hawk
*Duck Hawk
*Pigeon Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
Bob-white
American Coot
Killdeer
Wilson's Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellow-legs
Lesser Yellow-legs
Pectoral Sandpiper
Red-backed Sandpiper
*Hudsonian Godwit
Herring Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Common Tern
Mourning Dove
Belted Kingfisher
Flicker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Phoebe
Prairie Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Purple Martin
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
House Wren
Brown Thrasher
Robin
Hermit Thrush
Bluebird
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cedar Waxwing
Migrant Shrike
Starling
Myrtle Warbler
House Sparrow
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Bronzed Grackle
Cowbird
Cardinal
Goldfinch
Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Slate-Colored Junco
Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow

4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39

Screen Tours in Review

LAST SEASON'S AUDUBON Screen Tour lectures were memorable and refreshing. The October, 1952 program, "Western Discovery," by *Mrs. Laurel Reynolds*, was an entertaining movie of the wildlife found by Mrs. Reynolds and her naturalist husband on the Western coast of the continent. *Howard Cleaves* presented "Animals Unaware" in the January program; his was a humorous, friendly lecture, especially entertaining to the many junior members in the audience. In February *Walter Shackleton* described "Oddities in Nature," and he revealed many curious facts about the living creatures about us, from the metamorphosis of the caterpillar to the nesting habits of our bird neighbors.

In March we visited in pictures the incredible gannet rookeries on Bonaventure Island as *Robert Hermes* unreeled "Bonaventure Diary." But the strangest program of all was presented on April 12, when *Alexander Sprunt* failed to appear for his film, "From Coast to Crest." Fortunately for the Society, the projectionist of the James Simpson Theater came up with Walt Disney's nature film, "Seal Island," which was immensely enjoyed by all. The Directors have expressed their thanks to the Chicago Natural History Museum for coming to the rescue! (P.S.: The Society has received a refund for the missing lecture.)

Next season we will present only three Audubon Screen Tours. This step was regretfully taken by the Directors when the National Society informed us that the cost for the programs would be even higher this year. However, the Illinois Audubon Society will still present a full program of five lectures on natural history, as arrangements are being made to present two programs by outstanding Illinois naturalists. The Illinois Audubon Society Screen Tour schedule for 1953-54 will be announced in the September issue of *The Bulletin.*

4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39



List of New Members

IN THE DECEMBER 1952 issue of *The Bulletin,* we announced our plans to publish the names of new members at intervals. Six months have passed since then, and we have added 33 new members to the Society. All of those listed below are from Illinois, with one exception. We are glad to welcome these members into the Illinois Audubon Society, and hope that their association with us will be a long and pleasant one:

Esther Bennett, Carbondale
Mrs. John Hall Buchanan, Evanston
Boz Bulovic, Chicago
Louise J. Carsley, Zion
Mrs. Agnes M. Clarke, LaGrange
Mrs. Warren Currier, Downers Grove
Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Evanston
Mrs. Helen R. Fredigke, Evanston
Martha S. Fried, Chicago
Ann Gurshey, Chicago
Col. Ralph B. Howe, Ret'd., Chicago
Walter S. Huxford, Evanston
Mrs. Henrietta Jurgen, Chicago
Dr. Warren Keck, Naperville
Thomas H. Long, Chicago
Mrs. S. MacClurkan, Chicago
Carl S. Marvel, Urbana
Frederick A. Mattka, Western Springs
Pauline Meyer, Petersburg
Mrs. Harold W. Mogg, Evanston
*Mr. Robert Muckley, Chicago
Violet M. Nemec, Chicago
Sarah W. Nohelty, Chicago
John F. O'Toole, Chicago
*Mrs. Myrtle Patzig, Chicago
Peter Petersen, Jr., Davenport, Ia.
Mrs. Mary Peterson, Chicago
Byran S. Reid, Lake Forest
Mrs. C. F. Russell, Decatur
Karl Siewers, Chicago
Miss Lucile Studerus, Chicago
Mrs. Gertrude K. Thelin, Chicago
Miss Lyn Wulf, Chicago

**Contributing member*

The Decatur Audubon Society

By Mrs. C. F. Russell

The Decatur Audubon Society was just one year old in February, 1953. Our officers are: Mrs. C. F. Russell, President; Dr. A. T. Held, Vice-President; Mrs. L. J. Beal, Secretary; Mrs. O. T. Banton, Treasurer.

Several years ago I had my first glimpse of the *Audubon Magazine* at an exhibit of the St. Louis Audubon Society at a flower show in St. Louis. I signed a card at that booth and soon received literature about the Screen Tours. I immediately sent my subscription to the National Audubon Society for the magazine and began to day dream about an Audubon Society in Decatur.

Many months ago I wrote to the Illinois Audubon Society for helpful hints on programs, and received an informative reply. Soon we had created interest in our society and in a few months our club grew to 75 members. We have doctors, teachers, business and professional men and women, and knowing the ability of our membership, we sponsored the Audubon Screen Tours in our first year of organization. At our first Screen Tour our attendance was approximately 400 and we felt highly gratified at the response. I sincerely hope that Decatur will always be listed with some 200 cities who now sponsor the Screen Tours.

This year we have had many outdoor meetings and one outstanding field trip. In September, 1952, we went to Havana, Illinois and made a tour of the Game Refuge on Lake Chatauqua. Mr. Frank Belrose, game specialist, gave us a very informative talk and led us on a tour of the grounds. In November we had an outstanding program on Conservation in Southern Illinois. The two speakers, Mr. Eugene Comte and Mr. Walter Whitehead of Murphysboro, Illinois, gave an interesting illustrated lecture. These men are engaged in private business and spend their own money to further the cause of conservation in their beloved southern part of the state.

In October we went on a field trip to Allerton Park. Numerous field trips have been made to homes of our suburban members who have extensive grounds that attract birds. In December we participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count under the direction of Mr. Paul Rivard, who is the Program Director of our Y.M.C.A. Among our membership we have several ornithologists, including Mr. Rivard.

We have had such a record attendance at our meetings that private homes no longer have sufficient capacity, and already we have taxed the seating capacity of one small auditorium that was offered to us. From one to five new members have joined at each meeting. In January we had a celebration meeting open to the public. It was held in our beautiful new Y.M.C.A. building and Mr. A. C. Kadow of Elgin, Illinois gave his lecture and film, "Many Wings." We are a new society, small but enthusiastic, and I feel confident the National and the Illinois Audubon Society will have reason to be proud of the Decatur Audubon Society.

P.O. Box 287, Decatur, Illinois

The Wheaton Audubon Society

By Mrs. Roy J. Lile

Mr. LeRoy Tunstall, a member of the National Audubon Society, called a meeting in October, 1951 of all persons in the Wheaton area interested in bird study. As a result of this meeting, I became the first charter member and helped Mr. Tunstall in drawing up the Constitution and By-Laws. Elections were held and our group was then composed of Mr. LeRoy Tunstall, President; Mr. Bernard Klein, Vice-President; Mr. William Bode, Treasurer; Mrs. Roy J. Lile, Secretary.

The other charter members are: Miss Edythe Clark, Mr. Norman Kamin, Mr. John Kaenel, and Mr. Paul Thurston of Wheaton; Mr. and Mrs. Fred La Paglia of Lombard; Miss Nellie Taft, formerly of the Wheaton Newspaper, and Mr. Larry Wing of Warrenville, Ill. We also have a good number of new members and transfer members.

One large group is from the Benjamin Gault Bird Club of Glen Ellyn. We now have thirty-two members. Our field trips have been led by Mr. Keith Martin of Naperville, at the Morton Arboretum. An annual report of last year's field trips was made on tape recorder by Mr. Martin, describing the trips, naming the birds, and repeating the actual bird calls and songs — a classic in field reports, I would say.

We celebrated our first birthday with a banquet and Indian Summer program, with Dr. Russell Mixter of Wheaton College as our guest speaker. The Wheaton Audubon Society has the following new slate of officers:

President:
Mr. Edward F. Lueben
7 S. Sleight St.
Naperville, Illinois

Treasurer:
Mr. Wayne Frank
413 E. Lincoln Ave.
Wheaton, Illinois

Vice-President:
Mr. Keith Martin
232 Douglas Ave.
Naperville, Illinois

Secretary:
Mrs. Roy J. Lile
408 Pennsylvania Ave.
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Committee Chairmen are as follows: Program: Mr. Edward Lueben; Publicity: Mrs. Roy J. Lile; Education: Mr. Allan MacMullen; Membership: Mr. Wayne Frank. I hope that in the future our group and the Society may maintain an exchange of ideas and perhaps combine our activities from time to time, which I am sure will be much to the benefit of our youthful organization.

408 Pennsylvania Ave., Glen Ellyn

Conservation News and Notes

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Land-Grabbing Bills. The subject of land-grabbing was discussed in this column in the December, 1952 number of the *Audubon Bulletin.* Since then, two identical bills have been introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives, which are designed to benefit certain Western stockmen. S. 1491 was introduced by Senators Hugh Butler of Nebraska and Frank A. Barrett of Wyoming. Both men can be expected to push the bill vigorously. Senator Butler is chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Senator Barrett is notorious for various activities objectionable to conservationists, notably the Jackson Hole Monument struggle. H.R. 4023, the companion bill, was introduced by Rep. Wesley A. D'Ewart of Montana.

Some of the objectionable features of these bills are: Section 3 says that the legislation would apply to national forests and the public domain in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. These are the states which have suffered most from land-grabbing and other invasion of the public domain.

Section 5 would authorize boards of local stockmen to set "base property standards" (i.e. lands, water or range improvements used for the support of livestock), on which grazing permits would be computed. The Secretary of Agriculture would have virtually nothing to say about such standards. They would be for the benefit of the cattle barons who care little for the public interest and who have been guilty of much overgrazing, with consequent destruction of land by erosion.

Sections 6 and 7 would freeze existing permits in present hands forever, unless the rancher should choose to sell his holding. Section 8 would authorize a study to establish new fees for grazing permits. The fees are already very low by comparison with rentals of privately-owned pasture lands in our Western states.

Of course, not all cattle raisers favor the bill. However, the supporters of the bill are powerful politically, and well organized. They were clever enough to get a plank into the Republican party platform last summer which favors such legislation, and a small number of Congressmen can put over bad legislation by the old system of vote trading. Readers are urged to send letters to the senators from Illinois and to members of the House, opposing this legislation. Letters to Senator Hugh Butler, chairman of the Senate Committee, and Rep. A. L. Millar of Nebraska, chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, would also be in order. Act now if you would prevent further destruction of Western lands.

Politics in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior has replaced the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Albert Day, by a press agent for a paper company. This is the first time that this position has not been occupied by a biologist, except for Ding Darling who is a distinguished conservationist. This action appears to be

rank politics, and it has the unfortunate effect of discouraging trained biologists from entering the Fish and Wildlife Service. It is understood that a group of leaders in conservation will soon have a conference on these matters with President Eisenhower and the Secretary of the Interior. It is believer that neither of these men has been well informed about conservation matters.

LISTS OF LEGISLATORS. Mimeographed lists of legislators have been prepared by the Conservation Council. These include the members of Congressional Committees that consider legislation of interest to conservationists, as well as the Congressmen from Illinois. Members of the Illinois legislature from the Chicago region, with their home addresses, are also included. Copies of this list may be obtained by addressing the Illinois Audubon Society at the Chicago Natural History Museum.

BALD EAGLE BILL. Congressman Homer D. Angell of Oregon has introduced another bill, H.R. 210, to extend to the bald eagle in Alaska the protection it receives in the States. We hope this will be passed, and that a similar bill will be adopted in the U.S. Senate. The September number of the *Audubon Bulletin* mentioned an act by the Secretary of the Interior declaring killing of the bald eagle in Alaska illegal except when found doing damage to fishes, other wildlife, domestic birds or mammals. The Alaska bounty law, however, is still in force. The attitude of the new Secretary of the Interior toward this problem is not known as yet.

5716 S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago 37

Strange Coincidence — Or What?

By MRS. J. STEWART BOSWELL

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, my husband and I started out at 7:00 a.m. one February morning to drive from Sycamore, Illinois to Texas. It was unusually cold, and as we drove south on Highway 45, a sharp wind from the west caused fine, dry snow to penetrate the cracks in the car. The road was a sheet of ice, and traffic was light.

"No birding today!" we thought sadly — for birding has always been a big feature of our drives. But after about 50 miles, we began to notice birds, many small birds, along the roadside. Prairie horned larks! Not five or six, but tens and twenties, pecking at the few spots on the highway melted bare by passing cars. Some flocks reached 50 in numbers, and we must have passed a thousand birds in a hundred miles.

We studied these groups for longspurs or buntings, but saw none. Then low across the fields, drifting noiselessly in the wind, came a gray, ghostly

figure. A marsh hawk? No, its wings were broad and round. Luckily for us, the tired bird settled to rest on a fence-post. We drove slowly past, studying carefully. An owl — but which one? Out came "The Birds of Eastern North America" — always on the seat between us — and the color plate gave the name — the short-eared owl! Confirmation came from the description: "Hunts in daytime across open fields."

One argument engaged us for some time. Had we seen a north-bound migration of horned larks (my idea!), or had the extreme cold, with ice-covered fields, driven the larks to the partly melted patches on the highway for food and drink (my husband's idea!)? Are there great numbers scattered over the fields unobserved by us at other times?

In February, 1953, in sunny, zero weather, we again drove south from Sycamore. The week before we had seen a broad-winged and two larger hawks. This day was birdless until a small flock rose and whirled about a group of cattle in a feed lot. Looping flight, black tails, light underparts, marked them as horned larks, about fifty of them. We stopped to watch. Then came the coincidence. Across the fields from the west flew a large gray bird which settled near the larks on a fence-post. Yes, it was a short-eared owl! Dreadful thought! Does the short-eared owl like a meal of horned lark? Well — shameful confession — we once relished a dainty meal of quail or doves, ourselves!

233 W. Exchange St., Sycamore, Illinois

(*Ed. Note*: The prairie horned lark is probably the typical Illinois bird, for he loves open fields. As our forests are cut and our marshes drained and plowed, the lark increases in numbers and range. While larks migrate early, even in midwinter, it is likely that we see only one from a passing car where there are scores or hundreds.)



Book Reviews

BIRDS OF WASHINGTON PARK, ALBANY, NEW YORK, by Dayton Stoner and Lillian C. Stoner, 1952. New York State Museum, Bull. No. 344, 268 pp., $1.60, Albany, N.Y.

City parks may be favorable spots for bird study due to their accessibility, their function as islands in concentrating passing migrants, and their permanency, which can result in observations of historical value. The present study is chiefly based on spring observations from 1933-42 in a park of 90 acres, which includes a six-acre lake and 65 acres of mowed lawns. It has fine old elms and silver maples, but the shrubbery is rather closely trimmed. Fifty-two photographs illustrate for the most part scenes in the park. Tables show relative frequency of the 50 commonest birds, earliest and latest spring records and nesting status, etc. Most of the space is devoted to an annotated list of 127 species and subspecies recorded from the park; this consists of a brief description of the bird, an account of its occurrence,

and something of its habits and food. The bulletin is well-designed to stimulate interest among local bird watchers.

Eighteen species are known to have bred in this park. This is in contrast to two Chicago parks in the last 20 years: in Lincoln Park with over 1000 acres, 31 species have bred (Clark and Nice, 1950, Chicago Academy of Science, *Special Bull. 8*), and in Jackson Park with over 500 acres, 32 species have nested (Nice, 1952, *Audubon Bulletin*, No. 82:3-7). Interest in the nesting birds of city parks is a promising project for city dwellers and should result in encouragement of the authorities to provide better nesting facilities through erection of boxes and protection of shrubbery from mutilation.

Mrs. Margaret M. Nice, 5725 Harper Ave., Chicago 37



PARENTAL CARE AND ITS EVOLUTION IN BIRDS, by S. Charles Kendeigh (University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Ill., 1952). $4.00 paper, $5.00 cloth cover, 400+ pages.

This work constitutes Vol. XXII of *Illinois Biological Monographs*, Nos. 1-3. Dr. Kendeigh is professor of the department of zoology, University of Illinois, and one of the directors of the Illinois Audubon Society. This is a study made not only by frequent and prolonged observation over a period of years, but also by accurate measurements made by cleverly designed instruments and automatically recorded. The comings and goings of parent birds are timed by electrically contacted perches; periods of actual incubation are measured by a thermocouple connected with a timing and recording apparatus. Most of the studies were made on the house wren as the most available and easily observed bird. Nine pages are devoted to methods of study, 79 to behavior of the house wren, 80 to behavior of miscellaneous species, and 184 to the evolution of parental care.

The instruments of precision used are described and illustrated; various graphs and tables are used to summarize the findings. The wrens are described and tabulated as recognizable individuals.

An enormous bibliography is quoted and the methods of other observers described. It is interesting that only one of these used the photoelectric cell. The index of observers and literature quoted covers 41 pages. Quoting: "An attempt was made to cover completely the literature on North American birds — and the available literature as far back as at least 1930 for the rest of the world." Coming in for honorable mention among others are our Mrs. Margaret Nice and Dr. Frank Pitelka.

In the discussion of behavior patterns the author wonders how the variations came about. "Perhaps they show a phylogeny in the same manner as do structural characteristics. . . Possibly different behavior patterns . . . develop in different environmental situations."

As a source of information for investigators of the physiology and psychology of birds, this work will stand for many years, until new methods of approach, probably now unknown, are discovered.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

More Book Reviews

AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND PLANTS, by Alexander C. Martin, Herbert S. Zim and Arnold L. Nelson. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 500 pages. $7.50. Subtitle: "A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits in the U.S."

This book is a veritable encyclopedia of information on its subject, and represents more than sixty-five years of research by numerous investigators into the food habits of animals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians, and consequently on grains, vegetables, fruits and uncultivated plants (commonly called weeds). Chapter 13 (fish, amphibians and reptiles) is only five and a half pages, but it is highly informative, and quotes 12 other references to more detailed works.

Regarding the authors: Alexander C. Martin is a biologist at the Patuxent Research Refuge of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Herbert S. Zim is Associate Professor of Education, University of Illinois; Arnold L. Nelson is Director of the Patuxent Research Refuge.

There are four introductory chapters of orientation; five chapters devoted to birds, three to mammals, and five to plants. Each description of bird or animal and its habits lists its foods, and the approximate quantity of each ingredient consumed is indicated by symbols. Conversely, in each plant description is plotted the list of animals and birds that feed upon it, with symbols indicating the amount of use.

The innumerable black and white drawings of animals and birds by Walter A. Weber, and of plants by John W. Brainerd, are very accurate and well posed, and the book is replete with maps showing the seasonal distribution of each bird, animal and plant described. As a whole, this book demonstrates the interdependence of all life and the significance of the balance of nature, which may be disturbed by the being that considers himself the most intelligent, man.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

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THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

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CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 87 *September, 1953*

NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

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(ORGANIZED IN 1897)
For the Protection of Wild Birds

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ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

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Number 87 *September, 1953*

The President's Message

By PAUL E. DOWNING

MR. HARRY SMITH was forced, by reason of ill health, to relinquish the Presidency of the Illinois Audubon Society. I deeply regret his decision to retire, as Mr. Smith has served the Society for a long time in various capacities and has done an outstanding job in each of his offices. Although he will be available for advice, the Board of Directors will miss his leadership.

It was with misgivings that I finally agreed to accept the duties Mr. Smith so reluctantly laid down. The coming year will be impaired by the new President's lack of time to conduct the business of the organization. Before I agreed to the presidency, the members of the Board suggested that they could assume many of the duties of this office. And this, of course, is as it should be. We should not have a one-man Board.

By the same token, we should not have a one-board organization. Only to the extent that each member of the Society contributes his time, thought and effort will the organization be a success. Can *You* donate something beyond the mere payment of dues, important as that is, to the cause of conservation? There are many ways in which non-board members can help increase the value and scope of this Society.

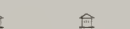
Here are a few suggestions. Interesting articles for the *Audubon Bulletin* will greatly help our editor, Mr. Lobik, as well as the membership at large. Can you do stenographic work? Such assistance is urgently needed at times. Are you willing to help organize field trips? If we knew of capable leaders in various parts of the state, we could schedule field trips which could be announced in the *Bulletin.* If you give lectures, do you tell your audiences about the Society and its work? Or do you tell your birdloving friends about the Society and try to secure their membership? One of our aims is some day to establish an Illinois Audubon Bird Sanctuary. Do you know where a suitable tract could be obtained—and maintained? Do you help our treasurer by remitting your dues as soon as the first notice is received?

Did I hear someone say: "Why should I go to all that trouble for the Illinois Audubon Society? 'They' should be doing those things for me; that is 'their' job."

The word, "they" refers to the officers. It should be remembered that the officers of the Society are regular members who pay the same or higher dues than you, but who, without salary, devote many hours of their valuable time and many dollars of their own money in travel, telephone and postage toward the operation of our Society. The only compensation received or

expected is the satisfaction of having contributed to the welfare of the entire group, and to the causes of conservation or bird protection.

Is there anything *You* can do to help? If so, send a note to the Board of Directors at our Museum address. *459 Roger Williams Avenue, Highland Park*



New Officers Elected

The Annual Election of officers of the Illinois Audubon Society at the June, 1953 meeting of the Board of Directors brought some new faces to the fore. So that the members may become better acquainted with their new officers, the following biographical material is presented:

Paul Downing has been first vice-president of the Society for two years, and has been an active director for more than five years. He is a former president of the Inland Bird-Banding Association and a member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. He replaces *Harry Smith*, who reluctantly resigned the Presidency after an illness of more than a year's duration.

Franklin McVey, our new first Vice-President, has served as chairman of several important committees within the Society. He is largely responsible for the success of our Annual Meeting and Field Trip this spring. He is a Chicago public school teacher who doubles as a nature counselor at a boys' camp during the summer.

Raymond Mostek, new second Vice-President, has been an active director for more than a year. He is in charge of literature sales, both at the lectures and by mail. Mr. Mostek is a member of several national conservation societies, and is president of the Chicago Council of American Youth Hostels, Inc.

Mrs. Bertha Huxford, re-elected third Vice-President, gives lectures on birds and conservation before children's and church groups. She is a former president of the Evanston Bird Club.

Miss Marie Nilsson has been active on several committees in the Society during the past year. She succeeds *Mrs. Anne Bayless*, who resigned because her new home in Gary, Indiana will keep her too far from Chicago to attend meetings regularly. However, she and her husband, *John Bayless*, will remain as members of the Board of Directors, where they head several important committees.

John Helmer was re-elected Treasurer, and *Paul Lobik* was re-elected Editor of the *Bulletin*. Director *Elton Fawks* was named to the new position of "Extension Chairman." He will head a committee which will be responsible for interesting Illinois bird clubs outside of the Chicago area in participating actively in some of the work being promoted by the Society. This participation will include support of necessary legislation (such as the Mourning Dove Bill or acts to establish additional state parks in Illinois), conservation activities, publication of local club news, sponsorship of field trips in various parts of the state, and so on.



Mourning Dove Bill Defeated

By Paul H. Lobik

In the Final Rush of action prior to disbanding for two years, the Illinois General Assembly voted down a large number of controversial bills. One of these was H. R. 514, the bill to prevent hunting of Mourning Doves in Illinois.

In a sense, the defeat of this bill could have been predicted, since a bill to take the State Conservation Department out of politics was defeated earlier by exactly the same vote. When the time came to decide, the wishes of the Conservation Department and the Izaak Walton League were obeyed, while the factual findings of the Illinois Audubon Society and other true conservation organizations were ignored.

The behavior of the Conservation Department in catering to hunters and disregarding the facts of bird surveys was pretty much as expected. But the role of the Izaak Walton League bears closer study. Why a society which pays real service to conservation should reverse itself by opposing the Dove Bill is a little hard to understand.

The *Chicago Tribune* on July 5 reported an interview with Burton Atwood, president of the Illinois Division of the League, in which he said: "Our investigations, based on reports by qualified biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Conservation Department and the Illinois Natural History Survey, convinced us that there is no reason to believe that the dove is threatened with extinction by present hunting regulations in Illinois."

Dr. R. M. Strong wrote to Mr. Atwood more than seven weeks ago, asking him where and when the Fish and Wildlife Service or the Natural History Survey supported the continued hunting of doves in Illinois. So far, Mr. Atwood has not answered. Previous articles on the Mourning Dove Bill in the last three issues of the *Audubon Bulletin* pointed out that the Fish and Wildlife Service has already admitted its error in estimating the annual kill of Illinois doves. It is well known that the Conservation Department has never had its biologists investigate Mourning Dove populations. And it is also well known that the Illinois Natural History Survey, in a report published in the December, 1951 *Illinois Wildlife* magazine, stated that dove populations were down by 40 to 60 per cent. Dr. T. G. Scott wrote the then Director of the Conservation Department on July 25, 1951, that the Survey had found the number of doves greatly reduced, and that he felt the hunting season on these birds should at least be restricted. In view of these facts, it should be interesting to see just what Mr. Atwood's reply will be. Members of the I. A. S. who are also members of the Walton League might ask their president how he justifies his misinformation.

The Dove Bill has been defeated, but the battle to protect doves must go on. Members should seek out and inform other groups all over the state—nature societies, church organizations, parent-teacher groups, garden clubs, yes, and sportsmen's clubs—that united action is needed to maintain Mourning Doves as a species in Illinois. The more individuals we inform now, the greater will be the flood of letters descending on our assemblymen when the Legislature convenes in 1955.

The need is great, too, for more information about dove populations—breeding counts, midsummer censuses, area surveys. When next we clash with the Conservation Department, we must be able to say: "This is what our records show; where are your facts?"

In the final analysis, the battle cannot be won until we defeat the enemy in his own stronghold—the State Department of Conservation. Once and for all, this body should be taken out of politics. The Conservation Director should be a trained biologist, someone who understands and believes in conservation—not a political favorite who seeks only to increase the "take" for the hunter and fisherman, with no regard for the future. We should write our governor and state representatives, and keep on writing them, that the Conservation Director and his assistants should be appointed on the basis of merit rather than political expediency, and that the reorganization plan proposed in the recently defeated bill should be carried out.

Illinois is truly a conservation desert; but if we work to undo the harm that has been done, to protect the Mourning Dove and other songbirds, to restore our wasted natural resources, we can make that desert bloom again.

4835 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago 39



Audubon Bird Calls Available

THE SOCIETY is pleased to announce that it has obtained a supply of the "Audubon Bird Calls" for sale to members and their friends. These little cylinders of wood, with a metal handle, emit a high-pitched squeaking sound when twisted that attracts birds from amazing distances. Your Editor tried one of these gadgets while on a recent mountain trip, and succeeded in bringing nuthatches, juncos, creepers, a Western tanager, robins, and several species of warblers within close range.

We have been permitted to sell these calls at a club rate of $1.25 each, which is lower than the price asked in downtown Chicago stores. The Bird Calls should prove useful in checking on the confusing fall warblers, or will make welcome Christmas gifts for your bird-loving friends. See our advertisement on the inside back cover of this *Bulletin*. The Bird Calls may be ordered directly from our Treasurer, Mr. John Helmer, 847 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.



Correction, Please!

The June, 1953 issue of the *Bulletin*, in the article on the Annual Meeting and Field Trip, page 7, erroneously listed Mrs. E. L. Swain as "Program Chairman and Field Trip Leader." Actually, the field trips were capably led by Mr. Peter C. Petersen, Jr., of Davenport, Iowa. This included both the trip around Credit Island on Saturday morning, April 18, and the next day's journey along the Mississippi to the Palisades. We regret that this error found its way into our report.



Birding in Columbus Park, Chicago

By Brother I. Theodore, F. S. C.

In September, 1951, I was transferred from Cretin High School, Minnesota, to teach science at St. Mel High School on Chicago's west side. As an amateur ornithologist, I feared my chances for further bird study would be very much curtailed by the great distances I would have to travel for observation.

This brief report on Columbus Park is planned to show how my fears were greatly unjustified and to encourage others, who like myself are limited by time and means of transportation, to make use of the city parks to further their interest in bird lore.

Since I am situated not far from Columbus Park, I made a trial trip there shortly after my arrival at St. Mel and had a pleasant surprise. My very first visit revealed not only English sparrows and starlings, which I had expected, but 25 species of migrating birds besides. Since October, 1951 up to the present writing (April, 1953), I have observed 115 species in this park, among them a few rare to northern Illinois, not to mention the heart of a large metropolitan area.

Columbus Park comprises only 114 acres, bounded on the east by Central Avenue, the west by Austin Boulevard, the north by Adams Street and the south by the Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin Railway tracks. With many acres of tall trees and shrubs, a lagoon, a golf course, and plantings with undercover, it has proved to be excellent for bird study. In spite of the small size of the lagoon, both pied-billed and horned grebes have stopped there in migration, as well as several species of ducks, including the wary wood duck. Green herons and black-crowned night herons stayed for a short time last year.

The intriguing part of birding in the park is that even on five or six consecutive days, the same species are not always present, and one nevers knows just what to expect. Even when the same birds are present several days in a row, they are not always found in the same areas. Among the unexpected finds was a dead saw-whet owl, the only owl I found until early this spring, when a long-eared owl made his appearance. The sparrow hawk is a resident, but on occasion I've also seen Cooper's and marsh hawks.

The pleasing factor of park birding is the element of time involved. I can cover the high-lights where the birds are most likely to be found in approximately an hour; if there are many migrants, an hour and one-half usually suffices to check them all. If I have more time available, there are areas off the beaten path that often prove interesting but are not worth covering each visit.

There are not enough large sand or mud flats to attract many shorebirds; in spite of this, I have seen many killdeer, the spotted and solitary sandpipers, Wilson's snipe, and much to my surprise, three weeks ago in one of the wooded areas I flushed a woodcock.

The park has proved particularly interesting during spring and fall migrations. All five common thrushes stopped over: wood, hermit, gray-cheeked, olive-backed and veery. 24 different species of warblers have been

observed as well as 14 species of sparrows. On April 16 of this year, I saw 10 species of sparrows: song, fox, Nelson's, Savannah, vesper, tree, field, Lincoln's, swamp and white-throated. Besides these ten, I have also seen the common sharp-tailed, chipping, Harris's and white-crowned.

Herring and ring-billed gulls are occasional visitors, especially when Lake Michigan is particularly stormy and rough. Of the woodpecker clan, the flicker and yellow-bellied sapsucker are quite abundant in spring and fall migration. Both the golden and ruby-crowned kinglets are present at these times. Four types of vireos come through: yellow-throated, blue-headed, red-eyed and warbling. Red-winged, Brewer's, and rusty blackbirds, together with the bronzed grackle and cowbird, comprise the visitors of that family.

Among other migrants observed are the meadowlark, whip-poor-will, nighthawk, kingfisher, crested flycatcher, phoebe, winter wren, migrant shrike, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, purple finch, and towhee.

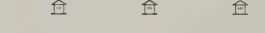
Lack of food makes the winter months rather poor for birding. About the only residents at this time are downy and hairy woodpeckers, cardinals, juncos, and crows. At times small flocks of tree sparrows or chickadees spend a few weeks; when the water in the lagoon is open, an occasional American or red-breasted merganser makes his appearance. Only toward spring did I see the brown creeper, red-breasted nuthatch and blue-jay. I have yet to see a white-breasted nuthatch.

Among the summer residents are robin, brown thrasher, catbird, cardinal, grackle, red-winged blackbirds, song sparrow, flicker, chimney swift, purple martin, house wren, warbling and red-eyed vireos, Baltimore oriole, chipping sparrow, bluejay, goldfinch, mourning dove, barn swallow, sparrow hawk and crow.

My most unexpected find was the blue-gray gnatcatcher, and the rarest was the blue grosbeak, which is rather uncommon this far north in Illinois.

In one and one-half years of frequent trips through the park, twice only have I encountered people looking at birds. Why don't more people take advantage of birding in Columbus Park? Probably because they have no idea of the treasures it has to offer. It is my hope that this little account may bring others to share my own pleasant and profitable experiences in the park.

4247 Washington Blvd., Chicago 24, Illinois



A Wish Come True

By Mrs. C. Harvey Davids

All during November on my frequent visits to the Wilmette Harbor area, I'd glance at the pier that stretches into Lake Michigan jokingly say to myself that perhaps a Purple Sandpiper might be there! Of course, I never expected to have one turn up for me.

On December 8, 1952, I received a letter from my friend Ellen Stephenson, who, until she moved to Connecticut, was one of Chicagoland's most active birders. She told of the exciting new birds she had seen on the East

coast, including the Purple Sandpiper. Immediately I answered, saying how much I envied her and that I wished a Purple Sandpiper would come to Wilmette.

Now, not all such wishes come true so quickly, but the very next day after I'd received and so promptly answered Ellen Stephenson's letter, I saw my Purple Sandpiper!

I've always taken my dog, Star, with me on walks along the Wilmette lakefront so that she can get some exercise while I watch for birds, but she didn't have much exercise at all on the morning of December 9th—because a small, bedraggled bird was standing on the pier I'd searched so many times! My Purple Sandpiper was close to shore; the sand beside the pier was covered with its footprints, showing that it had been there for quite a while. He was rather wet and did not appear to be very happy. The heavy fog that had hung low all the preceding night had perhaps forced the sandpiper to remain near shore. Now, at 9:30 a.m., the fog had halfway lifted. By the time Betty Mannette arrived (I'd dashed quickly in my car, along with a confused dog, to the Wilmette 'L' station to telephone Betty the good news), the sun was feebly shining. The Purple Sandpiper had become active, had dried considerably and looked much happier. After Betty left I continued to watch the sandpiper as he flitted down to the sand and up to the pier again. Finally he flew to the end of the pier, where I lost sight of him.

Very early the next morning, this Purple Sandpiper was seen by Janet Zimmerman as she stopped at the harbor on her way to Chicago. A few hours after that I returned, hoping for another glimpse of this winter sandpiper, but only saw an empty pier. Oh well, perhaps this was for the best, since Star could have her exercise without any sandpiper interfering. And I happily wrote Ellen that a Purple Sandpiper had come at last to Wilmette.

726 Eleventh Street, Wilmette, Illinois

Audubon Lectures for 1953-54

The Illinois Audubon Society will again present a full program of five illustrated talks on natural history at the James Simpson theater of the Chicago Natural History Museum this season. However, only three of the lectures will be "Audubon Screen Tours." The other talks will be presented by outstanding lecturers from the Middle West. As usual, printed announcements of the lectures will be mailed to all members this fall. Since dates for the "Screen Tours" have already been determined, we will give preliminary announcement here. All talks will be Sunday matinees, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

November 1, 1953: *Allan D. Cruickshank* in "Santa Lucia Sea Cliffs."
January 17, 1954: *Ernest P. Edwards* in "Land of the Scarlet Macaw."
March 14, 1954: *Tom and Arlene Hadley* in "America, the Beautiful."

Conservation Notes and News

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Indiana Dunes Project. In the *Audubon Bulletin* for December, 1951, I told of the connection of the National Park Service with the problem of the future of the Indiana Dunes between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres. Three trips made to this region by Mr. George Ingalls, Assistant Director of Region 2 of the National Park Service, were mentioned. On June 3, 1953, another inspection was made. This time, the Director of Region 2, Mr. Howard W. Baker, came with Mr. Ingalls. They were accompanied on the inspection by Mr. Howard Olson, general manager of the Chicago Regional Planning Association, Mr. Earl H. Reed, a prominent Chicago architect, Mr. Floyd Swink, and myself.

We visited Warren Dunes State Park, Warren Woods, and Indiana Dunes State Park in the forenoon. A long afternoon was devoted to the region between Dune Acres and Ogden Dunes, including the mouth of Burns Ditch at Lake Michigan. Mr. Swink, as on one of the trips in 1951, was exceedingly effective in explaining the botanical and geological features of the region. Mr. Reed told of interesting historical incidents. He is a consultant to the Chicago Planning Commission, and Chairman of a Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings, a developing National Preservation Program.

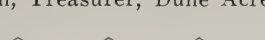
On the following day, June 4, there was a luncheon party at the Dune Acres Club House for the members of the Save the Dunes Council. About 125 members and guests, including Mr. Baker, Mr. Ingalls, Mr. Reed and myself, were present. Mr. Baker made an impressive speech in which he showed his appreciation of the Dunes region and discussed the problems of their preservation. Mr. Reed talked effectively on "What We Save When We Save the Dunes." The luncheon was preceded by a field trip conducted by Mrs. Edward Howes of Dune Acres.

On June 12, Mr. and Mrs. Buell, accompanied by an attorney, Mr. W. H. Sloan, and Mrs. Howes attended a county tax sale where they successfully bid at auction for the land which is occupied by the famous Mineral Springs Bog, also called the Cowles Swamp. The money for this purchase came from three sources. Part of it was supplied by the Save the Dunes Council, part by an undisclosed donor, and a third portion came from the residue of an earlier State Park fund.

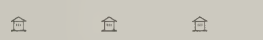
This purchase is most encouraging. Although the tract is not large, 56 acres, it includes all of the bog area in which so much interest has been shown for many years. I quote from a letter from Mr. Reed on the subject: "This indicates that the objectives of the Save the Dunes Council are definite and realistic." Great praise is due to the women who comprise the Save the Dunes Council.

I am happy to say that the National Park Service is sympathetic with our efforts to save the region between Ogden Dunes and Dune Acres. However, we must get more support than has as yet appeared, if we are to succeed. This means more active effort by readers of this article. Too many of us

wait to "let George do it." Members should write to the Save the Dunes Council, Mrs. L. N. Conklin, Treasurer, Dune Acres, Chesterton, Indiana.



MOURNING DOVE BILL. The Mourning Dove Bill was defeated by only a few votes. Its support was better from the northern part of the state, where there was more effort to influence legislation. Unfortunately, we had not only the Department of Conservation, but the Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League opposed to the bill. The hunters are powerful in both of these organizations. Contrary to a statement in the *Chicago Tribune*, the Illinois Natural History Survey had recommended protection of the Mourning Dove. It is important that a campaign to get a bill through the next session of the legislature be started now and not several months before the next session. Such activity also has value in the promotion of ornithology throughout the state and in learning what organizations are interested in the subject. *5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago 37*



Bird Records for the Tri-Cities

By PETER C. PETERSEN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT contains all of my noteworthy records from the Moline-Rock Island-Davenport area, not including the spring field trip of the Illinois Audubon Society. The number and quantity are low because much of my field work has been done on the Iowa side of the Mississippi.

White-fronted Goose—3 seen May 2 at Spring Lake Refuge, Savanna, Illinois. 20X scope.

Snow Goose and Blue Goose—6 of each species seen May 2 at Spring Lake Refuge. 20X scope.

Horned Grebe—3 seen May 2 at Lock #13 near Thomson, Illinois. 20X scope.

Hutchins's Canada Goose—10 seen May 3 at Lock #14 on the Mississippi. Observed from Iowa side; 20X scope.

Caspian Tern—1 seen May 9 at Spring Lake Refuge. 20X scope.

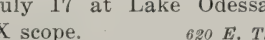
Connecticut Warbler—1 seen May 10 at Rock Island Arsenal. 8X binoculars.

White-crowned Sparrow—5 seen, same date and place as above. 8X binoculars.

Carolina Wren—1 seen July 12 at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, Andalusia, Illinois. Probably nesting because of lateness of date; no nest found. 8X binoculars.

Blue-winged Warbler—2 seen July 12, same area as wren. 8X binoculars.

White Pelican—23 seen July 17 at Lake Odessa, Wappelo, Iowa, flying toward Illinois side. 20X scope. *620 E. Thirtieth St., Davenport, Iowa*



Bird Watchers Wanted — II

By James H. Zimmerman

A Nationwide Study of bird migration is being made by a number of bird societies in an attempt to discover how rapidly various species migrate, whether their travels follow definite patterns, what influence weather has on the appearance of certain species on certain dates, and so on. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is acting as a clearing-house for data gathered in Middle-Western states. An earlier appeal to the Illinois Audubon Society resulted in a favorable response from a number of your members. [See the March, 1952 issue of the *Audubon Bulletin,* No. 86, p. 15].

We are appealing again for volunteers to send their data to us or for one person to act as a cooperator who will collect all Illinois reports and forward them to us at Madison. This person is welcome to use the data for his own purposes first, as to prepare articles for publication in the Illinois *Bulletin* or other journals. Records for the Illinois area should also be sent to Mr. Val Nolan Jr., 806 S. Henderson St., Bloomington, Indiana. National data are eventually assembled by Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

Intensive studies are being made along the following lines: (1) *White-throated Sparrow.* We are following this species north and south for five years. Spring and fall counts should be taken daily over a fixed route or area. Records are needed for: (a) last date observed in 1952; (b) first arrival date in spring; (c) noticeable increases or decreases in numbers; (d) first and last dates observed in fall. Bird banders' records of sexes, juveniles, returns, etc. are especially wanted.

(2). *Geese.* We want to know when and where main flights occur. Report: (a) all flocks heard and seen, giving numbers, species if known, direction, relative height, date and hour; (b) records of resting and feeding flocks, including dates of appearance and disappearance.

(3). *Night Migrations.* Lunar observations will be made again on September 1 to 5, October 1 to 5 and October 30 to November 5. The reports should be combined with daytime observations of arrivals or departures, particularly migration waves, and records of local weather during the dates involved. [See the December, 1952 issue of the *Bulletin,* pp. 8-9—Ed.]

The over-all study has now been expanded to include the 28 species listed below. The first 14 cover some species which might be winter residents in Illinois; if any doubt arises whether a first arrival is actually a wintering bird, the arrival date should be given just the same.

Canada Goose	Eastern Phoebe	American Goldfinch
Marsh Hawk	Common Crow	Slate-Colored Junco
Killdeer	House Wren	Chipping Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Red-winged Blackbird	White-throated Sparrow
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Myrtle Warbler	

The second 14 species are migrants for which first spring dates only are desired. Any additional notes on White-throated Sparrows or geese are also welcome.

Common Nighthawk	Wood Thrush	Eastern Wood Pewee
Chimney Swift	American Redstart	Black & White Warbler
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Baltimore Oriole	Yellow Warbler
Barn Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Indigo Bunting
Purple Martin	Eastern Kingbird	

What we require are individual reports from many cooperators in each town or county, not local compilations of many records. The more individual reports we get, the better (except two observers working together the same day should submit their report as one). Anyone who wishes to send in his reports or who desires literature and information about our program is asked to get in touch with the writer.

2114 Van Hise Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin

The Hawk-Owl *Was* a Hawk Owl

By Isabel B. Wasson

On the afternoon of April 28, 1953, it was drizzling steadily. I was driving the car alone from a plot where we were working to Parking Area 10 in the climax forest at the east end of the Morton Arboretum, near Lisle, Illinois. Suddenly before me, on a low branch over the road, I saw a large brown bird the size of a long-eared owl. I stopped the car and looked him over carefully. His tail was longer than the long-eared owl's, he was heavier and had no ear tufts. His head, back, wings and tail were a rich tobacco brown, with conspicuous white spots like polka dots across his shoulders. When he turned his head in silhouette, I could see his curved bill and rounded head, more like a hawk's than an owl's. He flew slowly one hundred feet down the road, swooping as he went, and alighted again low on a branch. The flight revealed narrow white bands across the tail. I crept forward in the car and stopped within 25 feet for another view. He flew on again and I followed. Finally he turned and flew into the thick woods.

I hurried back to my friend, Marge Shawvan, who was working on the plot, and said: "I've seen a bird that I don't know. It is a hawk-owl—he looks like a hawk but acts like an owl." We both set out again, and this time she saw him and we were able to see the black and white face pattern. For several days after that we went along the road hoping to see our strange bird, but never did.

A week later I was talking to Amy Baldwin and described our bird. She said immediately, "Why, you saw a Hawk Owl." Somewhere back in my memory there came to me that a bird by that name actually existed. I turned to the excellent picture by Fuertes on Plate 47 of "Birds of Massachusetts," and there was no doubt. I was interested in reading in Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota" that: "The Hawk Owl is perhaps the most abundant bird of prey throughout the wooded part of northern Alaska."

606 Thatcher Ave., River Forest, Ill.

A Trip West

By Anna C. Ames

It was on June 11th that my son and I left Chicago on a rail trip to the west. The next morning we were passing through North Dakota, a state I had known well in earlier years.

North Dakota again, but not the North Dakota of my childhood! The same great sky bends over the vast stretches of prairies. The winds that cannot be stilled are there. There are marvelous dawns and resplendent sunsets. In the late afternoons the long shafts of light lie over the plains as a benediction. It is still a region where one may breathe deeply in the consciousness of abundant breathing space. But North Dakota is under cultivation now. The gorgeous, red tiger lilies bearing four or five blooms to a single stalk no longer flourish. My brother, who has lived in North Dakota most of his life, says that now there are years between the times he sees these lilies. Other flowers also have well-nigh vanished. Meadowlarks seemed scarce that June.

One thinks naturally of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in connection with the Dakotas. Perhaps they were in the swamps, nesting. At any rate, but a scattered two or three were visible from the train. Red-wings were fairly numerous, as were Grackles and Coots. The American Kingbird, as in earlier years, perched on the fence posts.

All the way across North Dakota there seemed to be a pond or a lake every mile or two, and every bit of water had three to fifteen ducks. The birds were undisturbed by the passing of the train. Pintails, Mallards, and Blue-winged Teal were most common, but we saw also a pair of Shovelers, three male Canvasbacks, and one Baldpate. In the Souris River valley, an American Bittern posed for us while Black Terns, Common Terns, Purple Martins and Bank Swallows skimmed about. There were Swifts and Nighthawks and Upland Plovers. In a far corner of a medium-sized lake, a flock of Lesser Snow Geese seemed quite at home. White Pelicans delighted us. One Black-crowned Night Heron looked lonely. One each of the Arkansas Kingbird, American Magpie, and Canada Jay made us realize that we were really out West. A lone coyote loping along by the side of the embankment made me feel quite at home.

At Lake Louise, and from there on, Violet-Green Swallows were in the air everywhere. A Mountain Bluebird had a nest in a wall of one of the buildings at Lake Louise and posed for us in bewitching beauty. We walked to the head waters of the lake and found a flock of six or eight Evening Grosbeaks enlivening the somber evergreens with their golden plumage. A White-crowned Sparrow paused briefly, and an Audubon Warbler accompanied us on our way back. Then we chanced upon a beady-eyed Pileolated Warbler. There were handsome little chipmunks all along the way and we saw a porcupine retreating from view. High up, marmots abounded. Birds that we see also in the Chicago area were Golden-crowned Kinglets, Cliff Swallows, and Olive-sided Flycatchers. Farther west an Osprey flew in circles, now high, now low, and showed us every feather. A Ruddy Duck in a pool close to the tracks surprised us, as did a great Common Loon. We also saw a Raven.

Shuswap Lake is a beautiful body of water about fifty miles in length. It abounds in grebes. There we saw the Western Grebe, the Horned Grebe, and Holboell's Grebe, as well as eight Baldpate Ducks and an Osprey. The Fraser River valley was awesome, but did not yield birds. Vancouver harbor delighted us with a Pigeon Guillemot, Baird's Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, California Murre, and Western Gulls as well as Herring Gulls.

At Seattle we were fortunate enough to have a field trip with the president and secretary of the Seattle Audubon Society. We crossed the great pontoon bridge and drove up into the mountains. We were looking for Harlequin Ducks, which we did not find, but we heard a Hermit Thrush singing and a Varied Thrush displayed itself in the parking lot. Our leader stopped the car just before reaching a little bridge over a narrow stream. We walked to the bridge and looked down upon a very busy Water Ouzel or Dipper. The bird flew under the bridge and his mate—a little lighter in color than he—came to meet him. Both birds had their bills full of soggy moss. We discovered their nest under the bridge, wet to the touch and placed just as a phoebe places hers. One bird walked in the shallow water and both were very much at home in the wet.

Back in the city, as we drove over a bridge, numerous Glaucous-winged Gulls, the only species of gull in Seattle in the summer months, fluttered over a little island. We visited a park which yielded a Lutescent Warbler, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, Song Sparrow, Russet-backed Thrush, Spotted Towhee, Siskins, Brewer's Blackbirds, North-western Crow and Western Crow. Then there was a Western Tanager which only the men of the party saw, as the thicket was too dense and the going too rough for the ladies.

Brown's Point seemed almost birdless but we did see there a Rufous Hummingbird, a Western Flycatcher, and a Common Goldfinch. Summer was late coming to Mt. Rainier and there were few birds. At Long's, Steller's Jays were fairly common. A fawn so young that it was still unsteady on its legs approached us, and raccoons begged by the pathway. At the summit, amid the ice and snow and half-buried hostel, there were only Ravens.

At Portland a friend of a friend drove us up Mt. Tabor and accompanied us on a glorious hike. He knew the birds and readily identified for us Traill's Flycatcher, the Western Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, the Lutescent Warbler, and the Black-throated Gray Warbler. The Yellow Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Rusty Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, and Oregon Junco needed no identification. The Black-headed Grosbeak appeared as an old friend, for one once nested in the yard of my Nebraska home. Suddenly a gorgeous Western Tanager flew out and was in sight for several seconds. There were Barn Swallows, of course, and Violet-green Swallows were much in evidence. Now and then we glimpsed a Russet-backed Thrush. Baldpates and Mallards were the only ducks. Canada Geese flew overhead and the inevitable Crows appeared.

We visited the Pittock Bird Sanctuary of the Oregon Audubon Society. There we had the delight of finding near the path, in a low bush, the nest of a Russet-backed Thrush with three eggs. A California Purple Finch presented himself. Other birds were much as elsewhere—Oregon

Juncos, Rusty Song Sparrows, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Red-wings, and Violet-Green Swallows. To this point we had seen no Western Flicker, but to my joy, one flew in front of the car as we drove cityward. In one of the parks of Portland we observed a Baldpate Duck unconcernedly feeding on the grass and as tame as any English Sparrow.

As we proceeded to California, Klamath Lake was a delight to us. A jaunty Ruddy Duck displayed himself near the water's edge. Beyond him floated stately Western Grebes, picturesque and beautiful. Enormous White Pelicans flew about, and there were Cormorants also. We spent a day driving about San Francisco, a city of splendor, dazzling white in the sunshine. At the Cliff House there are probably always grotesque Brown pelicans, Cormorants, and California Gulls.

We were invited to dinner in the high section of Berkeley, at a beautiful home in a marvelous setting. As we approached the house, we noticed a Brown Towhee on the lawn. Then we sat on the porch and watched Brown and Spotted Towhees, Rufous Hummingbirds, California Purple Finches, and Bullock's Orioles.

Fate, in the shape of railroad strikes, decreed that we should not get to Salt Lake City, but we did visit Grand Canyon, where the only species we saw that was new to us was the Long-tailed Chickadee. Arizona was insufferably hot; the train was inadequately air conditioned, and we merely endured until we reached Denver. The Park of the Red Rocks—out from Denver—is amazing in its rugged beauty. The face of the cliff to one side of the great natural amphitheater furnishes homes for countless numbers of White-throated Swifts, which provided us with the last thrilling bird experience of our trip.

929 Brummel St., Evanston, Illinois

Book Reviews

BIRDS AS INDIVIDUALS, by Len Howard; Collins, 14 St. James Place, S.W., London, England, 1952, 223 pp.; price 10/6.

This book is the work of a keen, objective observer and ardent bird lover who has insight into her own psychology as well as that of the birds. To quote her: "I shall probably be accused of some anthropomorphism . . . it would be difficult to describe (birds' actions) in other terms. After eleven years of observation of individual birds at close quarters, I cannot think that their minds are so remote from ours." The author thinks the view that birds react in set patterns of behavior according to stimuli is inadequate to explain their nature.

All her evidence was derived from watching birds closely while they were free-flying and pursuing their ordinary lives. They had free access to all parts of her house at all times. Some of the birds were as familiar as the domesticated parakeet; many were easily recognized and described by her as individuals. They lived normal lives in every particular, except that they had no fear of her. Some of them seemed to recognize the author as their friend and protector. Without the fear element to distort behavior, her opportunities to learn the psychology of birds must have been greatly

enhanced. Apparently she was able to gain this confidence by first attracting the birds with food and nesting facilities.

In the book, 160 pages are devoted to bird behavior, the eighth chapter being a description of the bird mind, including emotions, memory, recognition, intelligence and flight performance. The remaining pages contain descriptions and analyses of the songs of 27 species. There are 32 illustrations, all of them excellent reproductions of outstanding photographs by Eric Haskins, F. R. P. S. There is also a foreword by Julian Huxley. Altogether, this is a most readable and absorbing book.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago



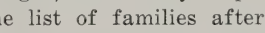
BIRDS OF MEXICO, by Emmet Reid Blake, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 644 pages, 1953. $6.00. Subtitle: "A Guide for Field Identification."

We who have birded in Mexico cannot help but envy you who still have that trip before you. How we wished when there for a guide book—any kind of guide book. Now there is one, and it isn't just any kind. It's a good one to which Emmet Reid Blake, associate curator of birds at the Chicago Natural History Museum, devoted years of painstaking effort. We believe that with a little practice it will make field identification of Mexican birds as pleasurable and almost as easy as identifying the strangers that show up on your own feeder.

The book treats all the 967 bird species that have been recorded from the Mexican mainland, including the Lower California peninsula and the adjacent waters and islands. It serves also as a guide to the birds of Guatemala and other parts of northern Central America. The 967 species represent 89 families and include more than 750 resident species and about 200 winter visitants and transients. More than 80 of the species live only in Mexico and about 400 others do not range north of Mexico.

There are 329 illustrations by Douglas E. Tibbitts, staff artist of the Musuem, all in black and white except the frontispiece. Each of the 89 families includes a dichotomous key for identification, in which each unit presents only two choices. We tested this key system on a number of familiar birds and others not so familiar, and always finished with the correct identification. Do not, however, buy or borrow the book the day before leaving for Mexico. Get it in advance and study it, putting it into practice on some of the birds covered which you do know. Then you should have little trouble identifying the birds you don't know, IF you know families fairly well.

The richness of Mexico's bird life as shown by Mr. Blake's book is overwhelming at first. For example, Mexico has 60 species of hummingbirds. It also has some delightful families which we do not know here, such as the Motmot, Puffbirds, Cotingas, and Honeycreepers, most of which seem to fit in naturally with the list of families after you have figured out their chief characteristics. *John Bayless, 8925 Indian Boundary, Gary, Ind.*



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THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$50.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 88 *December, 1953*

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For the Protection of Wild Birds
CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS
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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

Published Quarterly by the

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Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Ill.

Number 88 *December, 1953*

Hawk Migration over Thatcher Woods

By Isabel B. Wasson and Marguerite Shawvan

On Tuesday morning, September 29, a spectacular flight of hawks passed low over Thatcher Woods in the Cook County Forest Preserves. We counted more than 300 hawks between 9 a.m. and noon. There were seven species, including three bald eagles.

The day was sunny, with temperatures in the low seventies. The wind was from the northeast. We went to the woods at 8:30 a.m. to make a routine check on sparrows and warblers, and found our first flock of white-throated sparrows. Suddenly a sharp-shinned hawk alighted in a tree over us. While looking at him we noticed several hawks circling in the sky. To get a better view we returned to the slough behind Trailside Museum. Those first hawks had passed on south but more were coming out of the north — five six, seven — new ones appeared as fast as we counted. They wheeled in circles, always moving southward. The hawks had broad wings and short, wide tails, with two conspicuous white and black bands across the tail. No doubt of it, a flight of broad-winged hawks was on. We sat down on the curb behind the skating house, took out paper and pencil and began to keep the score. For three hours we counted hawks.

The broad-wings flew over in loose flocks of six to eight. Once a big flight of 45 was in the sky at once. They were a circling mass which moved south in two or three minutes. The hawks flew leisurely on the northeast wind with scarcely a wing beat. By noon we had counted 176 of them.

Flying even lower and more swiftly came the sharp-shinned hawks, often called blue darters because of their blue-gray backs and direct, swift flight. With short, rounded wings and long, slender tails, they beat their way across our open space — quick flaps and a sail. Sometimes the sharp-shins seemed to be flying toward the sun, only to turn and plunge toward the tree tops. They are small hawks, about the size of a brown thrasher, and belong to the accipiter group of hawks which in England are considered the only true hawks. The broad-wings belong to the buteo group which in England are called buzzards. By noon we had counted 142 sharp-shinned hawks.

Scattered among the southward streaming host were four red-tailed hawks, one red-shouldered, four Cooper's, and several falcons or duck hawks. And last of all came three mighty birds in black, with wing spread twice that of the broad-wings. As they approached we could see the sun shining on one white head. . . Bald eagles! At least one was in full adult plumage. They flew over well above us.

The wind began swinging around to the south at 11:30 a.m. We had to leave at noon, although the hawks were still going over. When we returned at 1:30 p.m., the flight had ceased.

It is an established fact that the big flights of birds in the fall — hawks as well as smaller birds — take advantage of the polar air masses moving southward. The steady northeast wind that morning, together with local updrafts, funnelled the birds over this area. The weather map for September 29 showed a cold front over Minnesota. By September 30 it was over Wisconsin and Illinois. On the morning of September 30 the temperature was 60 degrees. The cold air mass had arrived overnight and the first flocks of juncoes and golden-crowned kinglets were in our back yard. They, too, had moved south with the polar air mass.

606 Thatcher Ave., River Forest, Illinois

The Christmas Bird Census — 1953

ONCE AGAIN WE urge all members and friends of the Illinois Audubon Society to take part in our Annual Audubon Census of birds in the Illinois area. This year the period has been extended to include the ten days from Friday, December 25 to Sunday, January 3, 1954. Consult your local bird club or nature society to learn how you can join their hike. If there is no organized group in your vicinity, call up your favorite birding companions, drive out to the area you like best, and limber up your binoculars. The more people we hear from, the better we like it.

Birders in the Chicago area are welcome to join the Chicago Ornithological Society on their traditional bird walk in the Morton Arboretum on Sunday, December 27. The meeting-place is the Administration Building, just inside the main entrance, one mile north of Lisle on Route 53, at 9:00 a.m. This all-day hike is made regardless of weather conditions. It is best to call the Field Chairman, Mr. Albert Campbell, 2028 S. Third Ave., Maywood, phone FIllmore 3-7780, to check on the exact starting-place and time.

Reports of your census should be sent early in January to the *Bulletin* Editor, 4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39, Ill. Copies will be forwarded to the National Audubon Society if so requested. Please follow the standard A. O. U. order and arrange your report in accordance with the style observed in previous write-ups (see the March, 1953 issue of the *Bulletin* for examples). The following information is needed: terrain covered, miles by foot and/or auto, wind, weather, time spent in observations, species seen, and names of persons participating.

Reports should be typed, double space, please, on one side of 8½ by 11 paper. Please be sure that your group submits its findings to the Editor (someone on the hike should be appointed to this task before you start for home). The deadline for mailing reports is January 15, 1954.

New Nature Books for Sale

By Raymond Mostek

Our Society, in its constant efforts to be of greater service to its members and friends, has expanded its book service. This is good news for book lovers. For the past several years the Illinois Audubon Society has maintained a small book service to acquaint more people with fine publications which are helpful in the field, and to add to the Society's income. At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, it was voted to increase the number of books offered. The Society will handle some of the best current titles in nature literature.

Books make excellent gifts for Christmas and birthdays. We will be happy to fill any orders by mail. By addressing your requests directly to the Book Chairman, you will expedite your order greatly. If you desire books that we do not have in stock, we will be glad to obtain them for you. These are some of the new titles which have been added:

Hawks Aloft: Maurice Broun. $4.00
Field Guide to Mammals: Burt. $3.75
Exploring Our National Parks: Devereux Butcher. $2.50
The Sea Around Us: Rachel Carson. $3.50
A Sand County Almanac: Aldo Leopold. $4.00
Wildlife in Color: Roger T. Peterson. $3.00
Steve Mather of the National Parks: Shankland. $4.00
Flamingo Hunt: Zehl. $3.50

In addition to the above books, the Society has a good supply of the reliable perennials on hand: field guides, the Golden Nature Books, and wildlife books for children. As in the past, the Society will maintain a book table at the James Simpson Theater in the Chicago Natural History Museum at the time of each Audubon Screen Tour program. You are invited to visit us there. Persons desiring to obtain nature books for Christmas giving should write as early as possible to:

Raymond Mostek, Book Chairman, 3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18

Bird Calls for Sale

The new Audubon Bird Calls offered for sale in the last issue of the *Bulletin* have proved highly popular with our members. About four dozen have been sold so far. These little wooden cylinders, which attract a variety of small birds with their squeaking sounds, make an ideal Christmas gift for young nature students. Orders for the Bird Calls should be sent directly to our Treasurer, Mr. John Helmer, 847 Ridge Ave., Evanston, Illinois. Our special club price is just $1.25 each.

Conservation Notes and News

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Indiana Dunes Project. The women who make up the Save the Dunes Council are active in the effort to save the remaining unoccupied Indiana Dunes. Unfortunately, not many men are. Although various chapters of the Izaak Walton League in northern Indiana were contacted two or more years ago, the response was feeble. The average man in that region thinks more of possible financial gain if industry occupies the region, and many of the wives share this viewpoint. In view of the apathy and greed encountered, it is remarkable that so much has been accomplished.

There is a big job of education to be done. The people must be shown the advantages to themselves and their descendants of saving this wonderful area. They also need to learn that much of the hope of making money from industry in the region is illusory for most of them.

The Save the Dunes Council needs more help than it is getting. Northern Indiana people sometimes say "Why should we develop park facilities which would be used mostly by Chicago people?" Though they overlook the recreational values for the rapidly growing populations of nearby Indiana cities, there is justification for expecting support from the Chicago region. Large numbers of Chicago people use the Indiana Dunes State Park, and many of them visit the region we are trying to save. One way to help is to write to Mrs. Willard Butz, Box 952, Ogden Dunes, Gary 5, Indiana, asking for information. Checks of any denomination, even just a dollar, would be welcome to help support the work of the Council.

Key Deer. The National Wildlife Federation in a "Report to the Key Deer Fund Contributors," dated August 20, 1953, stated that the 1954 appropriation for the Department of the Interior carried a provision authorizing the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to use a reasonable part of its regular game management funds to lease lands for the protection of the Key Deer. A total of 70 adult animals was reported, with enough fawns to raise the total population to 90 or 100 animals. They occur on a number of Florida Keys, all but three on eight different Keys. This news is encouraging for preservation of this species.

Land-Grabbing. Shrewdly planned bills were introduced in the last session of Congress to pass special interest bills designed to favor the cattle barons, some lumbermen and certain mining groups. Though not successful, it is expected that the bills will come up again in the next session. The Western land-grabbers are trying to capitalize on a plank that was slipped into the Republican national platform a year ago last summer. One shrewd effort

was represented by bills which purported to revise our antiquated mining laws, but really did little except restate them. Congressman D'Ewart of Montana introduced such a bill, H.R. 4983. It met with vigorous objections, but it is still on the calendar. Good bills to revise the mining laws were S. 783, introduced by Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico, and H.R. 5358, introduced by Congressman Clifford R. Hope of Kansas.

The Ellsworth bill, H.R. 4646, would authorize trading of federal lands for private timber lands needed for dam building projects of the army engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. If this bill were passed, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service would have little or no power to prevent loss of timbered areas in such trading.

Land-grabbing bills in Congress usually involve Western lands and frequently our National Forests and the National Park System. Through long custom, committees on interior affairs are made up mostly of Western congressmen. Most bills involving public lands go through these committees. The land-grabbers prevail on certain congressmen to introduce such bills. Many congressmen do not realize the abuses they involve, or, if they do, yield to the pressure of vote trading.



Grass Lake Wildlife Refuge. The state of Illinois has purchased 750 acres of marsh land around one side of Grass Lake, nearly fifty miles NNW of the Chicago Loop, in Lake County, for a wildlife refuge. Grass Lake is famous locally for its lotus beds, and it is popular with the hunters. It is shallow and more marshy than other lakes in the Fox River chain, and it is consequently much frequented by ducks and coots during the migration season. Local coot hunters, resort keepers, and other small business operators made a big protest during the summer, and many articles appeared in local newspapers on the subject. This was in spite of the fact that the State Department of Conservation promoted the establishment of the refuge in order to provide better waterfowl hunting in northern Illinois. It is reported that there is a plan to buy 250 additional acres for the refuge. A large portion of the lake will still be open to hunting, which will not be stopped until after this season. The main purpose of the project is to keep more waterfowl in the Fox Chain-of-Lakes region from migrating elsewhere because of intensive shooting. It is also hoped that there may be more breeding of waterfowl in the area. Although most members of the Illinois Audubon Society do not like waterfowl hunting, it should be recognized that this refuge will tend to increase the waterfowl population of Illinois.



Crisis for the Soil Conservation Service. Conservationists are justly aroused over the plan of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson to abolish the Soil Conservation Service. This is in line with a drive to reduce taxes, and Secretary Benson has shown courage in resisting pressures to increase subsidies to farmers. However, it appears that the real motive for

Benson's plan arises from an old struggle for power between the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Both Benson and his assistant, Earl J. Coke, belong to the group opposed to the Soil Conservation Service.

The Soil Conservation Service has been doing a splendid job, and there appears to be no evidence that the work it has been doing would be done effectively, if at all, under the plan of Secretary Benson. Furthermore, hundreds of biologists and technicians would be discharged and presumably lost to this important work. Letters protesting the plan should be sent to our congressmen and to President Eisenhower, perhaps also to Mr. Benson.

5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago 37

Ed. Note: As this issue of the *Bulletin* went to press, Secretary Benson announced that he would proceed to "liquidate" (his own term) the Soil Conservation Service, in spite of protests from various congressmen and many conservationists. Although the damage has been done, it is not too late to register a "protest vote" by writing to Mr. Benson and the President.



Exhibition of Nature Photography

The Nature Camera Club of Chicago invites members and friends of the Society to participate in the Ninth Chicago International Exhibition of Nature Photography, to be held in the Chicago Natural History Museum from February 1 through February 28, 1954.

Black-and-white prints, color prints, and color transparencies are eligible for the contest. Acceptable subjects are pictures of birds, mammals, insects, plants, flowers, shellfish, geological formations, archeological remains, native tribesmen and their artifacts, colorful autumn trees — in fact, any aspect of natural history. The International Exhibition of Nature Photography is conducted in accordance with the rules of the Photographic Society of America, which awards two medals to the makers of the color slides judged to show the best color harmony. Additional medals, ribbons and certificates are awarded to the makers of the winning prints and color slides in each of three divisions.

The photographs are judged by a jury of five persons, including two curators of the Chicago Natural History Muesum, two internationally famous photographers, and a naturalist from the Forest Preserve District. Accepted prints will be on display in the main hall of the Museum through the month of February. Accepted slides will be projected in James Simpson Theater (where our Screen Tours are shown) on two Sunday afternoons, February 14 and 21, at 3:00 p.m. The deadline for entries is January 16, 1954; each contestant may enter up to four prints and/or four color slides. To obtain entry blanks, write to Paul H. Lobik, 4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39, Ill.

Interesting Chicago Bird Records

By RALPH M. EISEMAN

AN IMMATURE Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), a rare visitor to the Chicago area, was seen at the breakwater near the east end of the Montrose-Wilson beach, Chicago, Illinois, during the afternoon of October 19, 1953, by Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin, Miss Nelda McQuate, Mr. Don Magnus, and the writer. The presence of the gull had been reported to Mr. Magnus the day before by two people who had seen it at the pier that extends north from the breakwater at the east end of Montrose-Wilson beach.

While we were searching, a passing fisherman called our attention to a strange bird that was swimming next to the breakwater. This was the Sabine's Gull. It was rather tame, for it usually swam within five or ten feet of the breakwater wall, unless it was frightened by too much commotion from any of us, especially when I photographed it.[1] Then it would swim twenty or thirty feet out into the lake.

When Mr. Magnus flushed the gull, it showed the typical Sabine's Gull wing pattern — black outer primaries, a white triangular patch behind, and the rest of the mantle gray. The fork of the tail had a black border, a mark typical of the immature Sabine's Gull.

On the same day and at the same place, a flock of eleven Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea*) and eighteen Blue Geese (*C. caerulescens*) which were flying south, one or two immature Franklin's Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*), and one Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta*, perhaps *nelsoni*) were also seen. In addition, an adult Little Gull (*L. minutus*) was seen among a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*) by Mrs. Baldwin and the writer.

Finally, two trips to Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois, produced two Sharp-tailed Sparrows (*A. caudacuta*) for the writer. The first was seen at the east end of Navy Pier on October 15, 1953; the second, on October 23, 1953, in the weeds along the west side of the Men's Gym.

7928 So. Colfax, Chicago 17

[1]Only one photograph showed the general pattern of the gull's plumage, but the print was not suitable for publication.

Bird Walks in the Chicago Area

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY sponsors only one or two field trips a year, chiefly in connection with the spring annual meeting. It is regrettable that we do not meet more often, as members cannot expect to become acquainted through such rare meetings. The need becomes most apparent at the Audubon Screen Tours, when visitors and members approach officers at the book desk and ask: "Where and when do you hold your bird walks?"

The Society urges its members to participate in the outings of nature study groups in their own areas. To encourage this, the *Bulletin* has published accounts of the activities of some local bird clubs in Illinois (see

the March and June, 1953 issues). We are glad to promote the outings of any other Illinois bird clubs subscribing to the *Bulletin;* members are invited to send their accounts to the Editor.

We often publicize the outings of the Chicago Ornithological Society at the Audubon Screen Tours for the benefit of those who can travel to the Chicago Natural History Museum. However, it is also possible that members living at a distance can still participate in those affairs that take place in their vicinity. Hence we print below the schedule of C. O. S. bird walks for the remainder of the 1953-54 season:

Date	Place and Time	Features
Dec. 13	Morton Arboretum, near Lisle, Ill. Meet 9:00 a.m., Administration Bldg.	Owls, crossbills
Dec. 27	Same as above	Christmas census
Jan. 17	Same as above	Finches, siskins
Feb. 14	Lake Front, Chicago area, 9:00 a.m. — one group at pier off Tower Rd., Winnetka; others at Columbia Statue, Jackson Park. Meet at noon at foot of Randolph St.	Gulls, ducks
Mar. 14	Orland Park and Saganashkee Slough Meet 9:00 a.m., Orland school house	Water birds
Apr. 4	Enos, Indiana area. Willow Slough and Jasper-Pulaski Preserves. Meet at daybreak 7 mi. south of Kankakee bridge, U. S. Route 41.	Prairie chickens, Sandhill cranes, Longspurs, ducks
Apr. 18	Orland Park, Messenger Woods. Meet 9:00 a.m., Orland school house	Early migrants, Water birds
May 9	Eggers Woods and Wolf Lake. 9:00 a.m., Eggers Woods field house	Sandpipers, Warblers
May ??	Waukegan area; Illinois Beach Park Write C. O. S. for details	Warbler Day
June 6	Indiana Dunes State Park. Meet 9:00 a.m., Tremont Station of South Shore R.R.	Warblers, Shore birds
June 20	Saganashkee Slough to Parker Road. Meet 9:00 a.m., dam on Willow Springs Road, north of Route 83.	Chats, orioles, vireos, Western meadowlark

For more details about meeting times and places, it is advisable to call the C. O. S. Field Chairman, Mr. Albert Campbell, at FIllmore 3-7780. A monthly letter is sent to members giving final data on trips and the schedule for the regular program meeting at the Central Y. M. C. A. in downtown Chicago. Copies of this program will be sent to would-be members of the Chicago Ornithological Society on request by the secretary-treasurer, Mr. Holly Reed Bennett, 134 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Illinois, phone FRanklin 2-7500.

A Warbler in September

By Margaret Morse Nice

We are oppressed by the silent ranks of giant ragweed,
Without a flower, with no sound of bird.
When suddenly — the gleam of a golden body,
Tiny, exquisite, against the great dank weeds.
You little bit of dauntless faith,
Who have come from far away on your journey to distant lands,
All hail to your high courage, lovely bird!
Who have given us a glimpse of unforgettable beauty.

5725 Harper Ave., Chicago 37, Illinois

Orientation of an Olive-Backed Thrush

By Karl E. Bartel

On September 1, 1952, I took an Olive-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*) out of a one cell trap. It must have been in the trap over three hours; its feathers were wet and bedraggled from a heavy rainstorm a short time before. I placed the wet bird in a gathering cage to dry off. About one hour later, at 6:00 p.m., I banded it.

As soon as the thrush was released, it flew to an apple tree 20 feet away and looked at me for about two minutes, then took off in a southwesterly direction, ascending rapidly. After it flew about 1000 feet in that direction, it started to fly in circles, retracing its flight almost to where it had left the apple tree.

The bird flew in circles over the point of release, and after six or seven circles headed in a southeasterly direction, flying a zig-zag course. This continued until I could hardly see the bird with the naked eye. I believe the bird at this time must have been at least 2000 to 3000 feet away. It then took a course which seemed to be north-by-east. The bird by this time was only a speck in the sky, and I knew that if I took my eyes off of it I would lose it.

During this north-by-east flight the bird only zig-zagged a few times. About the time the bird flew parallel east of me, I lost it. All this took about five minutes after the bird left the apple tree.

The thrush seemed to want to go south, but apparently could not find the orientation needed to do so. There is an FM radio station ¾ mile northeast of my banding station, and I believe that the radio waves so destroyed or altered the bird's sense of direction that it flew in this uncertain manner. When the bird was seen last, it was heading toward the radio station, which was northeast of where the bird was released.

2528 W. Collins St., Blue Island, Illinois

Birds of the Great Northwest

I. The Olympic Peninsula

By Esther A. Craigmile

Many years ago I visited the Seattle Exposition in Washington and saw steep hills being eroded by great streams of water. In July, 1952, I returned to the Pacific Northwest to spend a month on the Olympic Peninsula at Bremerton, now bristling with great navy yards. The landscape had changed, but the birds had not. We drove our car onto the Kalakala ferry and crossed to Bremerton, accompanied by glaucous-winged and Sabine's gulls, distinctive with their black heads and forked tails. A few herring and California gulls were also observed. The hour's ride afforded a magnificent view of snow-capped Mount Rainier in the distance.

Near our stopping-place in Bremerton was a hill garden that proved to be a veritable bird haven. There were Douglas firs, dogwoods, cascaras, hemlocks, white firs, and madrone manzanita thickets growing on two sides of the garden. We found robins, house finches, California and Cassin's purple finches, and flocks of goldfinches, both old and young. In August we found families of Oregon towhees and rusty song sparrows, as well as the Puget Sound (white-crowned) sparrows, and two kinds of hummingbirds, the rufous and the broad-tailed, sipping from coral bells.

The cascara berries were the center of attraction in the garden during the day. Here, besides the finches, we saw the varied and russet-backed thrush, Western tanagers, and flocks of cedar and Bohemian waxwings. Black-headed grosbeaks and Bullock's orioles were constant visitors. Many gnatcatchers passed through the garden in August, while the more familiar black-capped chickadees and tufted titmice called from the thickets. Western house wrens soon became familiar, and one breakfast hour a Bewick's wren hopped the full length of the picket fence. The Northwestern flicker and the Gairdner's (downy) woodpecker were frequently seen. A pair of Townsend's solitaires frequented an overhanging bank on a steep hillside. The red-eyed and Western warbling vireos often called from the thick woods. On just one day were warblers abundant, and then I found the Audubon's, Calaveras, golden pileolated, myrtle, Macgillivray's and Townsend's warblers.

Beyond the garden, at the top of the hill, violet-green swallows nested in a bird house above garage doors. The parents dutifully fed their young in my presence, perching in the wires and flying near me without fear. The owner of the garage told me that his house cat was severely restricted while the young birds were learning to fly. I was to find another nest of these gorgeous swallows that summer in a resort on the Hood river, under the eaves of a summer cottage. There the parents busily fed their noisy young while people walked close by. We found barn swallows and purple martins on the wing almost everywhere along the Olympic Peninsula, to say nothing of the many gulls. The band-tailed pigeon and a few mourning doves were observed; toward the middle of August many Pacific nighthawks appeared.

We investigated a nature trail at Crescent Lake and found Steller's jays visiting the picnic tables; here, too, were our first wren-tits. We followed the trail through huge Douglas firs, sugar and ponderosa pines to emerge at a noisy mountain stream. Three water ouzels were feeding, diving into the water and walking along the rocks, their tails bobbing as they shook the water off their plumage. I had heard the exultant song of the ouzels in the Siskiyou mountains near Ashland, Oregon, many years ago. As they migrate from Ashland to Crater Lake in January, they sing jubilantly. Mr. Hine, then a curator of the Field Museum, told me of seeing an ouzel suddenly emerge from the waters of the Bow River near Lake Louise in Canada, singing a song and plunging again into the icy waters with no regard for the below-zero temperature.

We took pleasure in driving along Puget Sound, often pausing to watch kingfishers, sandhill cranes, great blue herons, gulls, terns, and an occasional pied-billed grebe. From a beautiful garden bordering the water I saw gulls rising high with clams or oysters and dropping them onto the rocks. They often succeeded in breaking the shells open. One white-winged scoter swam offshore. In another garden I saw a chestnut-backed chickadee at close range.

We returned to the hillside garden in Bremerton to find the Western wood pewee. A Western flycatcher nested on a low beam in a neighbor's garage. Another flycatcher was identified as Say's phoebe. It was perched at the top of a shrub near a water hole, head thrown back, emitting occasional mournful protests, accompanied by vigorous jerks of the tail. In early August large flocks of pine siskins appeared near this same spot. They alighted at my feet and one almost perched on my head. Many Oregon juncoes resided here, as well as several families of red-breasted nuthatches.

One day I visited a friend living near Kitsap Lake, which contained fresh water, unlike the sea water of the far-reaching Sound. She had trained a flock of wild mallards to respond to her call, "Come, quack! Come, quack!" They ate bread from her hand, and mine also.

One day we drove out to Olympia, Washington. We found two water holes frequented by all members of the swallow family; here red-winged blackbirds had been nesting. The heat was oppressive. We saw Brewer's blackbirds bathing in a pasture beside metal irrigation pipes. Crows called shrilly from a distance. These were our only records for these two species on the entire peninsula. We saw only one ring-necked pheasant, although we spent many hours driving through what seemed to be favorable territory.

Peterson's *Western Bird Guide* was constantly consulted as I tried to identify some of the Western birds that were at first so strange to me. Another good source of information about birds of the Olympic Peninsula was a local guidebook by Mr. E. A. Kitchen. On August 15th we regretfully left our hillside garden and motored along Upper Klamath Lake on our way to new bird adventures at Crater Lake, Oregon.

315 N. LaGrange Rd., LaGrange, Illinois

N.B.: Part II of Miss Craigmile's observations in the Pacific Northwest will appear in an early issue of the *Bulletin*. — Ed.

Iowa — Illinois — Mississippi Valley Bird Book

By Elton Fawks

For a long time the need has been felt for a local bird book dealing with birds along the Mississippi river. The Davenport Public Museum and the Tri-Cities Bird Club are in the process of compiling data concerning the counties immediately adjacent to the Mississippi in both Illinois and Iowa.

Present plans call for the book to be published in sections. Until the time arrives to complete the volume, each section will first be mimeographed. The most important section at present is a badly needed check list for the Tri-Cities area.

We are particularly interested in valid observations and information from students of bird life, particularly records describing kinds of birds, migration notes, life history studies, habitat preferences, and general bird observations made in the following counties:

Iowa: Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines and Lee.

Illinois: JoDaviess, Carroll, Whiteside, Henry, Rock Island, Mercer, Henderson and Hancock.

Some thought has been given to extending the scope of the work to include a strip of 50 miles inland from the river. We are appealing to anyone within this territory for help and ideas, and will accept records in whatever form proves convenient. We do have forms made out that we will send to anyone requesting them. These have specific questions and categories for different birds.

We have not decided on the exact scope of the present study, and would welcome any suggestions. One problem we are working on is just how the river itself affects migration. We are in an ideal location to start a study showing how the river is used. It is well known that the wide Mississippi valley is used by birds. What is known about birds using narrow river valleys rather than the broad river basin? What birds go directly north and south regardless of the course of the river? For a distance of some 30 miles the river near the Tri-Cities flows west. We know that most of the ducks and geese leave the river as it turns and pick it up again as it flows south. The reverse is also true as the birds fly north up the river.

Any opinions and suggestions on the check list, scope of the work, or especially any thoughts on the Mississippi river as a migration route will be gratefully received. Replies can be sent to the Davenport Public Museum at 704 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, or to the writer.

Box 112, Route #1, East Moline, Illinois

See More with Your Binoculars!

By JOHN HELMER

DO YOU ALWAYS wear glasses while looking through your binoculars on field trips? If you do, try taking your glasses off or resting them on top of the eyepieces as you look through them. Then compare the difference in field sizes by counting the pickets in a fence or the bricks in a wall. It is possible that you will be very agreeably surprised, as we were the first time we tried it.

If your eyes are simply near-sighted or far-sighted, you are lucky, for you can remove your glasses and depend on the binoculars to compensate for the shortcomings in your vision while you use them, as well as to enlarge the image of the bird in your field of view. But binoculars cannot correct for astigmatism. In this case, the best solution is to wear glasses with light weight, flexible frames so as to bring the eyepieces as close to the eyes as possible. This effect may be increaed by using binoculars with shallow eyecaps rather than the regular eyecaps, which are designed for persons without glasses. Incidentally, the Bushnell binoculars sold by the Illinois Audubon Society can be ordered with the shallow eyecaps at no extra cost. The makers of Bushnell binoculars have prepared a free booklet which covers the problems of getting better service out of your binoculars; we can send the booklet to any member requesting it.

Doffing your glasses not only gives you a wider field of view, but provides a much brighter, clearer image. Merely getting the binoculars closer to your eyes helps to shut out the light rays striking in from all sides. Stray light bouncing off the lenses and frames of eyeglasses conflicts with the image brought in by the binoculars.

Every bird-watcher knows that he should have the light at his back for best visibility. He stands in the shade whenever possible and avoids looking up against a bright sky. And so it doesn't make much sense for him to go bareheaded — unless if he wants a handsome sun-tan where his hair has thinned out. He would do better to make his own shade with a wide-brimmed sombrero — or *she* with a sunbonnet.

Try some of the above ideas on your next bird walk. If you wear glasses with heavy, plastic frames, the chances are that you will double the width of your field of view by removing those spectacles. When you double the width of an image, you see an area *four* times as large. Look into this matter the next time you use your binoculars, and let us know if you get results that are different. Good birding to you!

847 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois

Book Review

THE RED CROSSBILLS OF COLORADO, by Alfred M. Bailey, Robert J. Niedrach and A. Lang Baily; "Museum Pictorial No. 9," published by the Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, 1953; 64 pages, 27 illustrations, $1.00 postpaid.

This is the ninth booklet in the series being published by the Denver Museum. It describes and illustrates the nesting habits and life history of one of our most unusual Western birds. Red crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) are erratic in behavior, rarely nesting in the same area two years in succession. The greater part of the booklet, and all of the photographs, are based upon the nesting concentrations which occurred in Colorado in 1947-48 and again in 1952-53.

The booklet is divided into two sections. Part One begins with excerpts from the monograph on "New World Crossbills," originally published in 1937 by Ludlow Griscom and now out of print. Of the eight races of crossbills defined by Griscom five have been recorded in Colorado, but of these, only the Bent's crossbill has been known to breed there. After a thorough analysis of subspecific types, the authors summarize the surprisingly rare records of nesting crossbills in Colorado from 1887 to 1947. Then comes a detailed account of the 1947-48 influx of Bent's crossbills, during which intensive nesting observations were made, nests being found in ten months of the year.

Part Two describes the "1952 Observations of Red Crossbills," in which nesting took place throughout the year. The findings are summarized under such headings as: Flock Behavior, Plumage, Feeding Habits, Song, Territorialism, Nest Building, and so on. There are amusing narratives of some of the difficulties encountered in making the observations, and information is given on the photographic techniques used. The book concludes with a four-page bibliography.

Probably the most interesting parts of the booklet are the excerpts from the field notes. In some instances the authors had to follow the first snowplows up winding mountain roads, then haul ladders and equipment over the snowdrifts through the dense pine forests. Having brushed the snow away from the nests, the scientists would perch with their cameras and strobe flash equipment on the swaying ladders for long intervals while the crossbills calmly went about their business of feeding the young. The results of this research, as evidenced by the pictures, can only be described as outstanding. The 27 photographs are of the highest quality, both technically and pictorially, and are beautifully printed.

Dr. Alfred Bailey will probably be remembered by older members of the Illinois Audubon Society as a former member of the staff of the Field Museum in Chicago. He is a life member of the I. A. S., and is the author or co-author of six of the nine booklets in the Denver Museum series. The first of his pamphlets, "Nature Photography with Miniature Cameras," stands out in the writer's memory as one of the most helpful and informative booklets he has ever read on this exciting hobby. Members who

enjoy fine nature photographs will be well advised to write to the Publications Department, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver 6, Colorado, for the leaflet describing their complete "Museum Pictorial" series.

Paul H. Lobik, 4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago

Memorial Book Fund

MR. C. O. DECKER, Honorary Vice-President of the Society, has called our attention to a recent article in "The Franklin Alma Mater," a publication of Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana. The article tells of a $1000.00 endowment fund established by Mr. Charles F. McElroy and his son, George, as a memorial to the late Mrs. Charles McElroy. The income from the fund will be used to purchase books in the fields of ornithology and biology for addition to the college library.

The fund was established in recognition of Mrs. McElroy's great interest in the study of birds. She was secretary of the Chicago Ornithological Society for two years, and after moving to Springfield, Illinois in 1943, became secretary of the Springfield Nature League. Some of her many articles on birds were published in this *Bulletin*. As Mr. McElroy stated: "We believe that her interest in birds may be continued in a practical way by Franklin College through this gift."

Members of the Society who recall Mrs. McElroy might wish to contribute to the fund in recognition of the service she gave to the Chicago bird groups in past years. Copies of bird or nature books could be sent to Franklin College with the request that they be added to the Cora Clarke McElroy collection. Such books are marked by a distinctive bookplate showing songbirds poised at an open window. As Mr. Decker points out, this is a fitting memorial to one of Franklin College's most distinguished alumnae, a woman who was a prominent ornithologist in the Chicago area for many years.

Audubon Screen Tours

THE NEXT AUDUBON lecture to be sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society will be "Land of the Scarlet Macaw" by Ernest P. Edwards. This colorful film shows much of the brilliant variety of life in Mexico, including flowers, wildlife, rugged scenery, and picturesque natives. Bird-lovers will especially like the scenes of boat-billed herons fishing, the tiger bittern, and the motmots of El Salto. This lecture will be presented in James Simpson Theater at the Chicago Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive. The time is 2:30 p.m. Sunday, January 17, 1954.

Binoculars for Nature Study



BUSHNELL PRISM BINOCULARS provide high quality at low price. Clarity of optical systems compares favorably with expensive American-made or pre-war German binoculars.

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Buy your binoculars through the Society and support its work in protecting birds and wildlife. To order, write the Illinois Audubon Society, Chicago Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Illinois.

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A simple birch cylinder with a metal handle, two inches long over all, weighing a few ounces. When twisted, it produces sounds that attract a variety of song birds.....**Each $1.25**

Books for Nature Study

FIELD GUIDES NATURE LITERATURE

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY will fill mail orders for almost any book in the field of ornithology, nature study or conservation. Books not now at hand can be obtained following receipt of order. The following volumes are in stock:

A Guide to Bird Finding, by Olin S. Pettingill. $5.00.

Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger T. Peterson. $3.75.

A Guide to Bird Watching, by Joseph J. Hickey. $4.00.

The Migration of Birds, by Frederick C. Lincoln. $1.00.

Birds at Home, by Marguerite Henry. $2.00.

Traveling with the Birds, by Rudyerd Boulton. $2.00.

Golden Nature Guide Books. A series of nature guides, pocket size, for children and beginners. We have the following volumes: Birds; Wild Flowers; Insects; Stars. $1.00 each.

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests and rodents.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$50.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Natural History Survey
Library

Number 89 *March, 1954*

THE
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(ORGANIZED IN 1897)
For the Protection of Wild Birds
CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS
Telephone WAbash 2-9410



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The Case Against a Dam in Dinosaur

By RAYMOND MOSTEK

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR Douglas McKay has recommended to President Eisenhower that Echo Park Dam be authorized for construction within Dinosaur National Monument in western Colorado. This proposed dam is part of the Upper Colorado River Storage project which contemplates a series of hydroelectric and storage dams to harness the mighty Colorado river and utilize its waters in arid lands.

The Illinois Audubon Society, together with other conservation groups throughout the nation, is vigorously opposed to the Echo Park Dam. We fully realize that certain water development projects are necessary to the economic progress of the western states.

The Echo Park Dam is opposed because it would flood the superb canyons of the Green and Yampa rivers under 500 feet of water, and thus many of the scientific and scenic treasures for which the area was first set aside would be needlessly destroyed. Such unwarranted construction of a dam invades public domain, which in the eyes of an increasing number of Americans has become priceless. Important, too, is the plain fact that many alternate sites are available. It is a severe indictment against Secretary McKay that such alternate sites would provide greater storage facilities and would be far less costly to the American taxpayer.

An indication of McKay's weak thinking and hasty, ill-considered action on the entire project is his suggestion that $21 million be spent for study and development of what remains of the Dinosaur Monument after the dam is built. A mere fragment of this huge sum, if it were spent to enlarge facilities and build necessary highways to make Dinosaur Monument more accessible, would make this area a precious jewel in our National Park system, and thus relieve our other, better known parks of the huge crowds that now attend them.

Our Society has joined other groups in urging passage of HR 1038, an act which has been introduced in Congress to forbid construction of dams within national parks and monuments. A companion bill is HR 1037, which confers national park status on Dinosaur National Monument.

The case of Dinosaur is one of the most important national park issues that has been raised in the last forty years. If Echo Park Dam is authorized, it can set a dangerous precedent whereby every canyon in every national park will be under attack. This most unwarranted threat against our nation's treasures must be repulsed. Such regions as Dinosaur Monument

are becoming rare on our continent, and with a constant increase in our country's population, such areas will become increasingly popular. More people are visiting our national parks now than at any time in our nation's history.

Back in 1908, the then Secretary of the Interior authorized the city of San Francisco to build reservoirs in the Hetch-Hetchy Valley, 20 miles above Yosemite Valley, despite the fact that alternate sites were (and still are) available. If Hetch-Hetchy were a national park today, Yosemite would not now be in such miserable condition . . . overcrowded, trampled and littered.

Only an aroused public can save Dinosaur and our entire national park system. Letters of protest to Congress and the President are urgently needed. Your society has acted by sending letters to newspapers, all 25 Illinois Congressmen, both Illinois Senators, and letters to 25 Illinois nature groups. It has sent telegrams to Secretary McKay and President Eisenhower with 37 names attached. But individual cards and letters have the most powerful effect on elected officials. Your potential for good is tremendous. Use it.

3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18, Illinois



From the Book Table

EXPLORING OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS, by Devereux Butcher; published by Houghton, Mifflin Co. under the auspices of the National Parks Association; 1951; 286 pages; paper, $2.50; cloth, $4.00.

This is one of the finest and most authoritative books of its type ever written. The author is the executive director of the National Parks Association, with offices in Washington, D.C. It is a handbook of our great national nature reserves.

In its 250 illustrations, one finds magnificent views of rugged canyons, fantastic spires, weird formations, splendid mountains, and many of the other wonders our national parks and monuments contain. Here are delightful and intimate photos of nature — the wild animals, birds, wildflowers, trees and mosses that are such a valuable treasure in our nature reserves.

The author traces the concept and policy of the National Park System, discusses the National Park Service, and examines the dangers threatening our parks. The history of each park and monument is given. The volume concludes with an article by Sigurd Olson on the need of society for wilderness areas. An excellent bibliography is included.

No traveler to our national parks should be without a copy of this outstanding and treasured volume. You may examine this book at our book table following our Screen Tours. It is one of our "best sellers."

Raymond Mostek, 3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18

The Annual Meeting

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY will hold its Annual Meeting and Field Trip in Chicago on the week-end of May 8-9, 1954. Tentative plans call for the meeting to begin at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, May 8, at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive. The first event will be an unusual tour, "Behind the Scenes in the Museum."

After luncheon in the cafeteria, there will be a one-hour business meeting. Officers and committee chairmen of the Society will give brief reports of their activities during the past year. The members will vote for Directors, with eight vacancies on the Board to be filled. The afternoon program will consist of several short talks on ornithology by experts from the Chicago area, followed by a discussion of conservation problems. The members will then adjourn for a special dinner in the Museum cafeteria.

The evening program will consist of movies and/or slides presented by a well-known lecturer on birds of the Chicago region. Mr. Franklin McVey and Mrs. Walter Huxford are co-chairmen of the Annual Meeting. Registrations should be sent to Miss Marie Nilsson, Secretary of the Society, 1510 Olive Ave., Chicago 30, Illinois.

The Annual Field Trip, on Sunday, May 9, will cover Orland Wildlife Reserve and neighboring sloughs, fields and forest areas. Members from downstate are especially urged to come out and see for themselves the great variety of good birding to be found in the environs of Chicago. The trip will include a visit to the "Little Red Schoolhouse," the outdoor nature laboratory and experiment station recently established by our Forest Preserve District.

Mr. John Helmer and Mrs. Russell Mannette are co-chairmen of the Field Trip. Full information about the details of the Annual Meeting and Field Trip, as well as registration blanks and reservation forms, will be mailed to all members next month. In the meantime, remember to set aside May 8 and 9 for the big event of the spring birding season — the annual get-together of the Illinois Audubon Society!



Send Your Dues in Now

Letters have gone out to all members regarding renewal of dues to the Society for the coming year. Something of a record was set last year when over forty members changed their class of membership from the $2.00 active to the $5.00 contributing type. The cost of printing the *Bulletin* and presenting five Audubon Screen Tours alone adds up to more than $2.00 per member. When the additional costs of projectionist's fees, postage, and stuffing and addressing envelopes is considered, one can see why even more contributing members are needed. Next year we plan to present five Audubon Screen Tours again, although the cost of these has been increased. All members who have not already sent in their dues are urged to do so at once in order to save the Society the cost of extra billing and postage.

White Pelicans in the Tri-City Area

By Elton Fawks

As far as we know, these are the complete records for the white pelican in the Tri-City Area. Mr. James Hodges of Davenport, Iowa reports in a personal letter: ". . .An uncommon and irregular migrant. Paarmann in 1903 listed pelicans as quite common during migration, while Wilson in 1906 recorded that he shot one Oct. 3, 1893, on the river below the city. I have never observed this species, but Mr. Crandall of Davenport reported that he saw two white pelicans near Credit Island in the Mississippi, about Oct. 21, 1945. Mr. Crandall is a photographer of wild life with 40 years of experience behind him, and I consider his identification to be correct. Mr. Thomas Morrissey reports that a cripple was caught by school boys near the mouth of the Rock river in October, 1942. It died a few weeks later."

The Moline *Daily Dispatch* reported May 19, 1935 that seven pelicans spent a number of days in a small pond near Bureau, Illinois. They flew regularly over the town, and were seen by hundreds of people.

As previously reported in the Illinois *Audubon Bulletin* by the writer (June, 1953 issue), nine pelicans were found on Campbell's Island, near East Moline, on Sept. 15, 1952. The birds stayed "about three weeks." One was found at Spring Lake, near Savanna, Ill., on April 19, 1953 by members of the Illinois Audubon Society on their field trip with the Tri-City Bird Club.

On July 14, 1953, Mr. Lee Kruger told us that 44 pelicans could be seen on Lake Odessa, Iowa. These birds stayed all summer, leaving some time in late October or early November. It is not known whether these birds nested or not. Although this was the first time that we heard of the species at Lake Odessa, they are said to have been there the past several years. This, however, is the largest number seen. As yet the writer has been unable to learn whether the birds were seen in the spring.

Box 112, R. #1, East Moline, Ill.

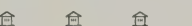
More Audubon Lectures Scheduled

Adhering to its policy of presenting five Audubon Lectures at the Chicago Natural History Museum each season, the Society has arranged for two guest speakers in addition to the three regularly scheduled from the National Audubon Society. Announcements of the new lectures were mailed to all members last month, but here is an extra reminder for those who might have overlooked the post card.

One lecture has already been presented: Mr. C. J. Albrecht, former member of the staff of the Chicago Museum, spoke on Sunday, February 28, illustrating his "Hudson Bay Adventures" with his own beautiful color pictures. Still another was the regular Audubon Screen Tour on March 14,

featuring Tom and Arlene Hadley's color motion picture, "America the Beautiful."

The final lecture of the season will be given by Mr. Clarence Randall at the Museum on Sunday afternoon, April 25. Mr. Randall is Chairman of the Board of the Inland Steel Corporation and a special advisor to the White House. During his spare time, he has become one of the outstanding amateur nature photographers in the country. His talk will be illustrated with his own new color films of bird life.



List of New Members

IN THIS ISSUE of the *Bulletin* we renew our practice of publishing the names of our new members at intervals. Last year, we welcomed 33 new members; in this list, we have 39. The Society is growing at an increasing rate, although still slowly. All of those listed below are from Illinois. It is gratifying that some of these names first became known to us during our spirited (but losing) fight to stop hunting of Mourning Doves in Illinois. We are happy to welcome all of these new members into the Illinois Audubon Society, and hope they will stay with us for a long time to come.

The names below represent new memberships received from May through December, 1953:

*Mrs. Thomas C. Baird, Kankakee
Miss Annie Batchelder, Chicago
E. French Block, Chicago
*Edward S. Block, Chicago
Mrs. Andrew J. Brown, Chicago
Mrs. Louise Bucher, Chicago
Mrs. Horton Conrad, Hubbard Woods
Emmett L. Costello, Chicago
*Miss Edna T. Cowen, Oak Park
Mrs. Alfred Dyke, Princeton
Dewey A. Ericsson, Chicago
Harold Fetter, Chicago
Mrs. M. V. Follin, Riverside
*Forest Trails Hiking Club, Chicago
Ronald C. Gitzendanner, Flossmoor
Orville C. Hynning, Chicago
Mrs. E. Howard Johnston, Markham
Florence Kent, Aurora
Linda Lyman, Downers Grove
Ava C. Marshall, Chicago
*Charles F. McElroy, Springfield
*Mrs. Lee J. Medina, Highland Park
Mrs. Robert Maxson, Oregon
John Mitchell, Chicago
Miss Ida Moni, Chicago
Mrs. J. D. Norman, Chicago
Miss Mary Helen Paul, Evanston
Thurid M. Pedersen, Chicago
Miss Lois Rea, Chicago
Miss Elsa Schmeiger, Chicago
Mrs. John G. Seise, Polo
*F. E. Shipman, Oblong
Mrs. Orville Smith, Chicago
Mrs. Faun Stephens, Chicago
Patrick Treacy, III, Chicago
*Wheaton Audubon Society, Wheaton
Fred Winship, Evanston
*John J. Yetter, Chicago
*E. W. Youngren, Chicago

**Contributing member*

Townsend's Solitaire in Northern Illinois

By Karl E. Bartel

Twenty-two members of the Chicago Ornithological Society braved the cold winds of 11° below zero to get another glimpse of a rare Townsend's Solitaire in the Morton Arboretum, near Lisle, Illinois, on Sunday, January 17, 1954. The bird was found once again in the orchard, a grove of crab-apple and hawthorne trees below the Thornehill Building, and was less shy than before, as it could be approached within 75 feet.

The Solitaire was first discovered by members of the C. O. S. on Sunday, December 27, 1953, during the regular Christmas Census. Since then, it has been found by anyone with the persistence to cover the orchard thoroughly. Good binoculars or a spotting telescope are needed, and it is best if the observers break up into small groups so as not to alarm the bird.

The Townsend's Solitaire is considered rare or accidental east of the Red and Missouri rivers. There are three records for Minnesota: a specimen collected at Collegeville on December 20, 1909; another at Fairmont on November 30, 1916; and one seen at a feeding station at Groveland, from January through March, 1922. One specimen was collected at West Point, Wisconsin, in February, 1910. Another was obtained December 16, 1875, at Waukegan, Illinois (the only previous Illinois record!). One Solitaire was under observation at Toledo, Ohio, from December 26, 1938, through January 14, 1939. The easternmost record is from Long Island, where a specimen was collected on November 25, 1905, at King's Park.

Members of the C. O. S. go out on field trips once a month or oftener. A new list is begun at the first of each year, and members work hard to record as many birds in the Chicago area as they can. The Townsend's Solitaire is one of those exceptional birds that appears here once in a lifetime. However, most of the members come out regularly and cover as many different kinds of territory as can be found in this region. When a person's list reaches the 300 mark, he has worked very hard indeed. Here is the list of birds seen January 17th:

Red-shouldered hawk, 1; screech owl, 1; long-eared owl, 2; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 1; American crow, 11; black-capped chickadee, 4; white-breasted nuthatch, 1; red-breasted nuthatch, 2; winter wren, 1; robin, 7; hermit thrush, 3; Townsend's solitaire, 1; golden-crowned kinglet, 4; cedar waxwing, 19; northern shrike, 1; starling, 6; cardinal, 2; pine siskin, 60; American goldfinch, 50; slate-colored junco, 18; tree sparrow, 1. Total: 22 species, 197 individuals.

2528 W. Collins St., Blue Island, Ill.

Christmas Census — 1953

THIS YEAR'S BIRD COUNT is being presented in tabular form. Tabulation of Census Reports is nothing new; some ornithological societies have been publishing their censuses in this form for many years. But this is the first time we have tried it, and we would appreciate your comments and suggestions for future improvements.

Making a table of the field reports provides several advantages. First of all, considerable space is saved over the older write-ups, in which the names of species were repeated over and over again. Since space in the *Bulletin* is limited, this economy is of first importance. Second, the results are easier to read, and it becomes much simpler to compare one area with another, and to total the counts. Finally — a future benefit — we will now be able to compare counts of a given year against totals of other years.

The count this year continues to show an increase both in numbers of species and total individuals. We believe that this is due to a larger number of observers rather than an increased number of birds. We had 116 different species this year, in comparison with 107 in 1952; there were 103,393 individual birds counted, in comparison with last year's total of 41,584. We also had 24 census reports as against 22 a year ago. The mildness of the current winter is reflected by the appearance in our table of several birds that normally winter farther south. Also noteworthy are the records of some winter rarities: a Townsend's solitaire, gyrfalcon, red crossbills, kittiwake, red phalarope, and others.

The tabulation is coded according to the area studied. Each code is a crude abbreviation of the area name, as Ar for Arboretum, J-P for Jasper-Pulaski, and so on. Where the same group covered the same area more than once during the census period, similar code identifications are used, as Ja*, Ja2*. Asterisks are used to indicate that a given area was covered more than once during the period; when results are totaled, only the largest single-day count for one species in the same area is considered. Data about the locality, weather, number of observers, etc. are summarized in the paragraphs immediately following.



CODE: Ar*; *Lisle, Dupage county;* Morton Arboretum, and roads around the Arboretum. Dec. 27, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. SW wind, 20 to 30 mph. Temperature 32° at start, 38° at end; snow on most of the ground up to two inches; partly cloudy; 10 miles by auto, 5 miles on foot; group mostly together except for one hour when two places were covered at one time. Members of Evanston Bird Club, Chicago Ornithological Society, Illinois Audubon Society; 41 persons in all. — Karl E. Bartel, compiler. There is only one other record of the Townsend's solitaire in our area — *Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin,* Cory; quoted from *Birds of Northeastern Illinois,* 1876, p. 94. The record is that given by Mr. E. W. Nelson, who states: "A single specimen of this species was obtained Dec. 16, 1875, by Mr. Charles Douglas at Waukegan, Illinois. The bird was found in a sheltered ravine,

extending a short distance into the bluff bordering the lake shore near the above named place, and showed no alarm when approached."

CODE: GE*; *Glen Ellyn,* Du Page county and Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Dec. 27, 1953; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Partly cloudy, windy, 30°, gradually warmer until noon. Ten miles by auto, four miles on foot — Benjamin T. Gault Bird Club of Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Mrs. L. E. Cisne (compiler), C. C. Choyce, C. S. Johnson, J. A. Wood, Robert Mulloy, Edward Pittenger, S. Fulton, H. Hinds, R. W. Pearce, W. W. Currier, C. A. Lambert.

CODE: AH; *Arlington Heights,* Cook county; the observations were made from our living room picture window, which overlooks some 112 acres of farmland, and from the front lawn of the house. 4:00 to 4:15 p.m.; Dec. 20, 1953; clear and warm; 40° F.; winds strong from SW. The gyrfalcon in white plumage was seen flying from west to east. It landed on a telephone pole, and was observed with 8x30 binoculars for 2½ minutes before it continued its flight in a north-easterly direction. Another white gyrfalcon was observed under the same conditions one week later on December 27th. Both observations were probably of the same bird. — Gene Lukasik, Jr.

CODE: BI; *Blue Island, Cook county;* in the vicinity of Blue Island, Tinley Creek Banding station and fields west to Maple Lake Forest Preserve. December 25 to January 3, 1954. Birds listed show largest number of individuals seen in one day. Snow on ground to no snow, temperature range from 0° to 45° above. Of the eight blue birds, seven were seen by Coursen in Mt. Hope Cemetery on 1-3-54, one by Johler, Blue Island, 1-3-54. The three white-throated sparrows were seen at the feeding station by Coursen. — Karl E. Bartel, compiler.

CODE: Ch*; *Channahon, Will county; Roadside-Riverside census;* south to Morris in Grundy county and back to Channahon. Observations were made south from Channahon, along tow-path of I. & M. Canal to Morris on the northwest side of the DuPage river, following the Kankakee river and DesPlaines river to Channahon. Dec. 27, 1953; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; 70 miles by auto, one mile on foot. Temperature 32° at start, 38° at end; partly cloudy; SW wind 20 to 30 mph; party together in one car. — Helen Lane, Harold Fetter.

CODE: Ch2*; *Channahon, Will county; Roadside-Riverside census;* same area as in preceding report. January 2, 1954; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; 70 miles by auto, two miles on foot. Temperature 39° to 48°; clear; wind, south 30 mph; ground bare, almost all water open; 90% river bottom, 10% upland; group together in three cars. — Karl E. Bartel, compiler; Laurie Binford, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Campbell, Charles T. Clark, Harold Fetter, Helen Lane, Richard Macoomber, Dr. J. O. Young.

CODE: CL; *Calumet Lake flats,* Chicago, Cook county; west and south side of Calumet Lake, Calumet Lake boat club property, along Dutchman's Slough, south on Express Highway to Dolton Road, then east covering the fields west of Calumet City, then north to Calumet Lake again. December 24, 12:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; bright sun; ground covered with snow; Calumet Lake frozen except near Boat Harbor and a few pot holes near the dump; Dutchman's slough frozen; temperature 20°; wind SW, 20 mph; total miles 26 by car. On December 19th on the flats, a killdeer and a sanderling were seen. — Karl E. Bartel, compiler. (*Continued on page 9*)

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD CENSUS, CHRISTMAS 1953

AREA	Ar*	GE*	AH	BI	Ch*	Ch2*	CL	Elk G	Ja*	Ja2*	Jol	J-P	LFr*	LGen	MiC	Mor	NInd	Olney	OrP	RaP	Spf	Tr-C	Wau	WhP	TOTALS*
Common Loon														1											1
Horned Grebe														1	10		1								12
Western Grebe															1										1
Pied-billed Grebe									1					4									1		6
Double-cr. Cormorant																						3			3
Great Blue Heron						6								1		1									8
Canada Goose												97		60		550					3				710
Mallard Duck					32000	20000			50			9	29	40	185	4500					5000	94	20	19	41,917*
Black Duck					6	600			2			6	1		290	1000					2500				4398*
Gadwall						2															1				3
Baldpate (Widgeon)																1									1
Pintail						55									7	50					1	5			118
Redhead														11	6						20	4	1		42
Ring-necked Duck																							1		1
Canvasback						11							1	1	14	5					17	3	10		62
Greater Scaup Duck															6										6
Lesser Scaup Duck					24	1							7	60	236	3	29			50	45	69	125		648*
Amer. Golden-eye					50	600	14		150				300	200	280		325			25	2	452	300		2498*
Bufflehead						2			1					15	212						1	2			233
Old-squaw									15				65		596		544			20			100		1325*
Ruddy Duck						18								8	4										30
Hooded Merganser						2							1	2	9								2		16
Amer. Merganser						11			14				2	4	353	13	24				7	110	31		567*
Red-br. Merganser					12		6		16					25	114							25	20		218
Goshawk																								2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			1				1				1										1		1	6
Cooper's Hawk						1										1					1	3			6
Red-tailed Hawk	1			2	2	9						3		4	2	2		15			5	22	2	18	85*

AREA	Ar*	GE*	AH	BI	Ch*	Ch2 *	CL	Elk G	Ja*	Ja2*	Jol	J-P	LFr*	LGen	MiC	Mor	NInd	Olney	OrP	RaP	Spf	Tr-C	Wau	WhP	TOTALS*
Krider's Red-tailed	1																								1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1	1		3		3			2				1	1	1	6			1	4	1		26
Broad-winged Hawk	1																								1
Swainson's Hawk			1																					1	2
Rough-legged Hawk	2			1	4	7								4		1			1		1	2		17	40
Bald Eagle												1				3						46		2	52
Marsh Hawk	1				1	6						2		1	6	4	1	12	2		4	2	1		42*
Osprey																								1	1
Gyrfalcon			1																						1
Duck Hawk (Peregrine)														1								1		1	3
Pigeon Hawk			1																						1
Sparrow Hawk	2	1	1	1	3	4		1	2						4		3	24			6	3	1	1	53*
Prairie Chicken																35		26							61
European Partridge														8											8
Bob-white												9			23			22			9	13			76
Ring-necked Pheasant	12	4	14	1	1	2		5				3		6	6				1			20			70
American Coot						3	1							400		1					8	1			414
Killdeer																							1		1
Wilson's Snipe												1		1									1		3
Red Phalarope															1										1
Herring Gull	1		2	11	12000	26	1200		216				325	80	623		650		6	25	1	17	300		15,241*
Ring-billed Gull					2	7	500		284	6			55	1	203	8	400			25	90	38	50		1606*
Bonaparte's Gull									10						51		600			14			20		695
Little Gull																	1								1
Kittiwake															1		1								2
Rock Dove	13				4	40	2				7			4									8		74*
Mourning Dove	19			5								1			1	1		237			33	109			406
Screech Owl	1			1		1													1			3	1	1	9
Great Horned Owl	1																					2			3
Snowy Owl																	1								1

Area	Ar*	GE*	AH	BI	Ch*	Ch2*	CL	Elk G	Ja*	Ja2*	Jol	J-P	LFr*	LGen	MiC	Mor	NInd	Olney	OrP	RaP	Spf	Tr-C	Wau	WhP	TOTALS*
Barred Owl																		1			4	7		1	13
Long-eared Owl	11	5						1														1			13*
Short-eared Owl	2													12					4			3			21
Belted Kingfisher						5								2	3		1					9	1	1	22
Yellow-sh. Flicker						5					2	1		1	1	1		42			62	10	1	6	132
Red-bel. Woodpecker		1				3		1				1						21			66	21		21	135
Red-headed Woodpecker												2			4			17			6	6		12	47
Hairy Woodpecker	3			2		3		1			1	1		3	3			4	1		11	28	1	16	78
Downy Woodpecker	8	8		9	1	8		6	2		4	10		7	26	3	4	24	2	1	90	96	2	40	342*
Prairie Horned Lark						3		2								128	3	24			454	19		2	635
Blue Jay	6	7		2				6			1	40		25	74	8	2	243			118	101		113	740*
Common Crow	250	30	5	90	20	300		9	5	1	655	23		300	85	158	135	61	9		495	274	7	302	3163*
Black-capped Chickadee	18	7		18		7		20			4	19		33	17		1				108	95		270	610*
Carolina Chickadee																		75							75
Tufted Titmouse						2					1	16			30		1	57			113	41		43	304
Wh-breasted Nuthatch	6	1		3		4		2	1		4	2		8	13			2			33	32	1	55	166*
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8																					5	2	2	17
Brown Creeper	2			1		10		1				2		1							18	30		7	72
Winter Wren	1	1				2						1			2							8		1	15*
Carolina Wren						4									1			19			55	3			82
Mockingbird																		10			2				12
Catbird															1										1
Robin	18	13		1								4			3			4			2	2	4	4	42*
Hermit Thrush	2																								2
Eastern Bluebird				8														64			4	2			78
Townsend's Solitaire	1																								1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	14	7				5		4				4		6							13	10		4	60*
Cedar Waxwing	40	15												20								37		299	396*
Northern Shrike						1								3								1	1		6
Loggerhead Shrike												1			1			5							7

Area	Ar*	GE*	AH	BI	Ch*	Ch2*	CL	Elk G	Ja*	Ja2*	Jol	J-P	LFr*	LGen	MiC	Mor	NInd	Olney	OrP	RaP	Spf	Tr-C	Wau	WhP	TOTALS*
Starling	2	40	19	65	60	150	200	6	15	28	67	5		200	329	15	300	257		15	3585	1231	12	615	7139*
Myrtle Warbler																					12				12
English Sparrow	12	75	7	35	100	90	50	4	34	40	35	5		200	1202	55	100	1494		50	902	471	7	792	5624*
Eastern Meadowlark	14					2						15				18		185			1	1			236
Red-winged Blackbird		2				1000						3			204	13	235				27	562			2046
Rusty Blackbird						1								1	7	48	105								162
Brewer's Blackbird																								2	2
Bronzed Grackle				7		2											75					4			88
Brown-headed Cowbird																	14				50				64
Cardinal	8	10	2	13		5		4	3	2	12	25		7	37	2	3	282			196	83	2	45	731*
Evening Grosbeak																						1			1
Purple Finch	10	20						8						6	9		24	6			14			47	134*
Common Redpoll	9																								9
Pine Siskin	200	26																				1			201*
Common Goldfinch	9	1				11		2				13		30	61	23	13	144			83	16	7	12	424*
Red Crossbill	9																								9
Eastern Towhee												2			2			4			3				11
Slate-colored Junco	40	50	14	65		175		25	10	5	21	430		50	445	37	85	724		6	335	483	25	383	3363*
Oregon Junco	1																					2		1	4
Tree Sparrow	10	100		45	200	200	4	90			17	308		30	735	58	175	479	2		311	619	200	34	3407*
Field Sparrow						3									6			12				3			24
White-crowned Sparrow	1														10		41	13							65
White-throated Sparrow	1			3								4			4						25	4		3	44
Fox Sparrow																					4				4
Swamp Sparrow						3						16		2	7	12	12		1		1	1	1		56
Song Sparrow	1	8		1		8			1		5	18		3	19	10	8	18	2		77	87	1	6	272*
Lapland Longspur	8															42					90				140
Snow Bunting									14													2			16
Total Species	46	23	12	26	18	52	9	22	21	6	16	38	10	49	58	36	35	36	12	10	57	68	39	41	116
Total Individuals	782	432	68	392	44490	23430	1977	202	883	82	838	1104	786	1893	6486	6811	3918	4533	32	231	15024	5466	1272	3203	103,393*

*Where the same area was covered more than once during the census period, or was covered by more than one group of birders, totals show only the largest one-day, one-group count for a given species in that area.

CODE: LFr*; *Lake Front;* Chicago, Cook county; from foot of Randolph Street south to Jackson Park boat harbor, inner and outer. December 28; 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; cloudy; temperature 38°; wind, west 8 mph; total miles by car, 8. — Karl E. Bartel, compiler. (This is summarized with Ja* and Ja2* totals.)

CODE: EG; *Elk Grove Forest Preserve,* Cook county; pine woods 2%, deciduous woods 50%, fields and clearings 48%; December 26, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; ground partly covered with snow; partly cloudy; temperature 30° to 35° F.; wind light; 6 miles on foot, 4 miles by car. — Philip N. Steffen, compiler.

CODE: Ja*; *Jackson Park,* Chicago, Cook county; Eiseman's feeding station, (Yacht and Inner harbors to Wooded Island) 51st Street, Northerly Island, Chicago Harbor, Navy Pier area, Montrose Harbor to Montrose-Wilson beach, Foster avenue at the lake front. December 25; 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.; snow on ground; all harbors and Navy Pier area mostly frozen over; rest of Lake Michigan open except for area ¼ mile north and ¼ mile east of Navy Pier (an area bordered by breakwaters); clear to partly cloudy; temperature 30° to 40° F.; 20 miles by car, 3 on foot; all observers in one party. The white-breasted nuthatch followed us from the south end of Wooded Island about ¾ of the way north on the island, perching over our heads. The following birds were seen in the count area just before the census period: one female or immature male shoveller on December 18; one coot, one immature little gull, and one immature kittiwake, all seen by Eiseman on December 22 at Navy Pier. — Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin, Ralph M. Eiseman, compiler, Dr. Alfred Lewy.

CODE: Ja2*; *Jackson Park,* Chicago, Cook county; from 59th Street to 56th Street and from Stony Island Avenue on the west to Lake Michigan on the east; December 25; 9:15 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.; two to three inches of snow still on the ground; sunny; WSW wind; temperature 31° to 33°; 2½ miles on foot (all paths and plantings examined). — Frances J. Carter.

CODE: Jol; *Joliet, Will county;* Pilcher Park Arboretum; December 25, 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; clear; ground covered with two to three inches of snow; wind west 10 mph; temperature 35°; 23 miles by auto, 5 miles on foot. — Karl E. Bartel, compiler.

CODE: J-P; *Jasper-Pulaski State Game Preserve,* Medaryville, Indiana; entire preserve area, plus observations north on State highway 421; December 26; 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.; cloudy to partly clear; temperature 35° to 32°; wind SW, 12 mph; one to four inches of snow; some small springs open but ditches and marsh frozen. Four observers in one party. Total party-hours, 8 (7 on foot, 1 by car) total party-miles, 26 (9 on foot, 17 by car). — Paul Davis, Nora Grow, Raymond Grow (compiler), Simon Segal.

CODE: LGen; *Lake Geneva, Wisconsin;* around entire lake by car, stopping at suitable localities for observations; also some road side census around the lake, covering a tamarack bog southeast of Lake Geneva. December 26; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lake entirely free of ice. Group in three cars, mostly together; 45 miles by car, five miles on foot. Wind SW, 30 mph; ground bare with a few spots of snow; partly cloudy; visibility very good,

but lake rough; temperature 30° at start, 35° at end. — Earl Anderson, Karl E. Bartel (compiler), Jack Bicket, Ted Dreyer, Harold Fetter, Rich Guschausky, Craig Hall, C. O. Palmquist, Bob Palmquist, Dr. J. O. Young.

CODE: MiC; *Michigan City, Indiana.* 7½ mile radius centering on Beverly Shores and Highway U.S. 12, east to Michigan City, west to Baileytown. December 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear to cloudy; temperature 31° to 40°; wind S, 9 mph. Ground bare, some snow in shade pockets; ditches and rivers partly frozen, Lake Michigan open. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 29 (20 on foot, 9 by car), total party-miles, 198 (18 on foot, 180 by car). The western grebe has been seen regularly in Michigan City harbor since November 28, 1953. The phalarope has been seen regularly in Michigan City harbor since November 1, 1953. Reported during count period: Baldpate or widgeon; white-winged scoter, surf scoter, American scoter (at least one individual of each scoter species apparently wintering at Michigan City harbor); sharp-shinned hawk, cooper's hawk, rough-legged hawk, American coot, killdeer, snowy owl (seen almost daily at Michigan City since about December 15) pine siskin, common redpoll. — Ted Chandik, Paul Davis, Nora Grow, Raymond Grow (compiler), John Hawkinson, Gail Howes, Lois Howes, Virginia Reuter-skiold, Jean Segal, Simon Segal.

CODE: Mor; *Morocco, Indiana, Willow Slough State Game Preserve.* Entire Preserve plus adjacent prairie chicken booming grounds; marsh and marsh border 40%, old fields and cultivated fields 40%, deciduous woods 20%. January 2; 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear to partly cloudy; temperature 35° to 43°; wind S and SW, 17 to 20 mph. Ground bare, some ditches and part of marsh open, all other water frozen. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 10¼ (8¼ on foot, 2 by car), total party-miles, 44 (8 on foot, 36 by car). — William Barnes, Paul Davis, Nora Grow, Raymond Grow (compiler), Phil Kahl.

CODE: NInd; *Northern Indiana, Lake County;* 7½ mile radius centering on Chase Street and the Grand Calumet river in Gary, including areas in or near Whiting, Griffith, New Chicago and East Gary; river banks 40%, lake front 20%, old fields and cultivated fields 20%, industrial areas 10%, suburban areas 10%. January 3; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast to partly cloudy; temperature 34° to 38°; wind S, 17 to 20 mph. Ground bare, all ditches and rivers frozen, Lake Michigan open. Four observers in one party. Total party-hours, 9½ (4½ on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 75 (5 on foot, 70 by car). The little gull is an immature, seen same place every week-end for three weeks preceding count. The black-legged kittiwake was seen by all observers as close as 15 feet. The snowy owl was one of three reported during count period; two were shot on December 31. — Ted Chandik, Nora Grow, Raymond Grow (compiler), Phil Kahl.

CODE: Olney; *Olney, Richland county, Ill., Bird Haven Sanctuary.* 7½ mile radius centering on Bird Haven, including city park, cemetery, Larch-mound, Weber-Shaw Wildlife Refuge, Big Creek, fields and woodlands easily reached by car; open farmlands 85%, deciduous forests 10%, parks and streets of Olney 5%. December 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; cloudy most of day, frost in air and on vegetation until 10:30; temperature 17° to 43°;

wind light, no snow, some open water by afternoon. Fifteen observers (11 in 3 parties, and 4 at feeding stations). Total party-hours 28½ (10 on foot, 18½ by car) total party-miles 282 (20 on foot, 262 by car). Seen in the area the week of the count: screech owl, 1. The red-headed woodpecker and goldfinch had larger counts this year than usual. The prairie chicken count was much below last year, probably due to heavy farming in one region where a large flock of birds had persisted in recent years. After June the birds scattered and as yet the present location of the flock is not known. — Mrs. and Mrs. W. R. Bridges, Mr. and Mrs. Olin Groves, Jimmie Kermicle, Carol Scherer, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Scherer, Lee Scherer, Mrs. Howard Scherer Shaw, Perna M. Stine (compiler). At Feeding Stations: Mrs. Mary Chaplin, Mrs. Rolla Eichhorst, Mrs. Carl Fee, Mrs. Charles Fildes.

CODE: OrP; *Orland Park, Cook county;* Orland Wildlife Preserve. December 25, all of lake frozen; clear; ground covered with snow; west wind, 10 mph; temperature 30°; 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. Observations made on Orland Lake and roads surrounding the lake. The short-eared owls and pheasant were seen in late afternoon just south of Orland, on the way home from Pilcher Park trip. — Karl E. Bartel, compiler.

CODE: RaP; *Rainbow Park,* Chicago, Cook county; 75th to 79th Streets and the west end to Lake Michigan. December 26; 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Snow on ground, Lake Michigan open, ice pieces in lake. Partly cloudy, sunny, temperature in the mid 30°s; 3 miles on foot. — Ralph M. Eiseman.

CODE: Spf; *Springfield, Sangamon county;* 7½ mile radius centering at the county courthouse, including Lake Springfield, Clearlake, Oak Ridge Cemetery and Carpenter Park on the Sangamon river; December 27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; clear; temperature 20° to 35°; wind S, 5 to 15 mph; all water frozen except parts of Lake Springfield; 1 to 5 inches of snow; water 5%, river and stream bottomlands 20%, pasture 30%, plowed land 30%, city suburbs 15%; 20 observers in 8 parties; 46 party-hours (36 on foot, 10 by car); 247 party-miles (46 on foot, 201 by car. — 18 members of the Springfield Nature League (W. A. Sausaman, compiler); guests: W. R. Bridges, Olney and Emma Leonard, Jacksonville.

CODE: Tr-C; *Tri-City area*: *Moline, Rock Island, Davenport,* and nearby areas up and down the Mississippi; Dec. 27, 1953; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; wind, 10 to 25 mph, S-SW; temperature, 29° to 40° F.; high overcast; ground moist, snow where protected or drifted; river 75% frozen, open below locks; party-hours: foot, 33; car, 24; party-miles: foot, 34; car, 348. — Participants, 25 members of Tri-City Bird Club; Peter Petersen, Jr., compiler. Seen in the area during census period: ring-necked duck; hooded merganser; vesper sparrow; white-crowned sparrow.

CODE: Wau; *Waukegan, Lake county;* Waukegan harbor, woods and fields; all water open; some birds observed through the fence at Public Service pond; foot of Greenwood Avenue; garbage dump; Illinois Beach State Park, nature area and the Pines. January 1, 1954; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; ground bare; partly cloudy; SW wind 8 mph; temperature 33° at start, 38° at end; observers together. 18 miles by auto, 3½ miles on foot. 50% water, 50% fields and pine stand. — Hollis Bailey, Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin, Karl E. Bartel (compiler), Laurie Binford, Mr. and Mrs. Albert

Campbell, Charles T. Clark, Ralph Eiseman, Tom Magill, Ted Nork, Mr. and Mrs. Al Zimmermann.

CODE: WhP; *White Pines Forest State Park*, Camp Emmaus, and the Rock river area at Oregon, Ill.; Ogle county. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 7½ mile radius. Weather, sunny and in the mid thirties — a good day for soaring hawks. We see the Carolina wren right along, also pheasant, bob white, woodcock, and ruffed grouse. The pine siskins come in very erratically. However, we did not see the above birds on that day. — Dr. Eikenberry, Barry Henderson, Michael Henderson, Bill Hook, Wayne Hughes, Robert Johnson, Mike Maxson, Vivian Maxson, Marie Nilsson (from Chicago), Mart Nurmet, Robert Seibert, Nelle Seise, Mrs. Ellen Stenmark, compiler.

Bird Walks in Chicago Parks

LEADERS ARE NEEDED again this spring to conduct the week-end bird walks sponsored each year by the Illinois Audubon Society. Mrs. Walter Huxford, 3027 Thayer St., Evanston, would be glad to receive offers from experienced leaders who can spend two or more consecutive Saturdays or Sundays guiding birders about the various city parks. The first persons to volunteer will get their choice of the areas they like best.

Once again this year, Miss Doris Plapp, former Secretary of the Society, will conduct her series of bird walks in Lincoln Park. Groups meet at the Totem Pole near Addison street and the Outer Drive, each Saturday morning at 7:30. The first hike is scheduled for March 20, and additional walks will go out each Saturday through May 22. These tours have been a feature of our Chicago parks for more than ten years, and have meant an "introduction to birding" to many Chicagoans.

NORTH WOODS CABIN FOR RENT

IDEAL for nature students — large log cabin on an exclusive lake 200 miles north of Minneapolis. Rental of $25.00 per week includes use of row boat. May be rented by week or for the season. For particulars, write Mrs. J. H. Buchanan, 2709 Central St., Evanston, Illinois.

Conservation Notes and News

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Foxes Not Guilty in Pheasant Population Depression. Many hunters have blamed foxes for reductions in populations of pheasants. Several years ago, a local sportsmen's club tried to get the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to permit hunting of foxes in the Forest Preserves charging that foxes living in the forests go out into the surrounding fields and kill pheasants in considerable numbers. Some of us appeared at a hearing on the subject. The Forest Preserve District stood firm and did not yield to the appeals of the hunters. To have done otherwise would have had unfortunate consequences, not only for the foxes, but for those who seek recreation in our autumn woods.

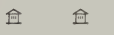
In 1947, the New York State Conservation Department selected two large areas in Central Seneca County for a study of the problem of how much foxes affect pheasant populations. Systematic trapping and shooting of foxes was done on one of these areas, and the other was let alone so far as the foxes were concerned. The populations of foxes on the two areas were compared carefully in subsequent years, and no benefit to the pheasants was found as a result of the efforts to exterminate the foxes. Details of the experiment are given in a booklet published by the Division of Fish and Game, State Conservation Department, Albany, New York, entitled: "A Study of Fox Control as a Means of Increasing Pheasant Abundance." Condensed statements of these results appeared in *Conservation News*, November 15, p. 10, and in the *Outdoor News Bulletin* of the Wildlife Management Institute for September 28, 1953.

Longevity for a Duck. *Conservation News* for December 1, 1953, p. 8, reports a male black duck shot recently in the Munuskong marshes in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The bird was banded in 1940, a survival of 13 years or more.

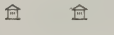
Whooping Crane Population. A gain of three in the population of these nearly extinct birds was reported in *Conservation News* for January 1st. Twenty-four of these birds appeared at the winter range in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge near Austwell, Texas. There were three less in the number which went north from this range last spring. These are the only known surviving whooping cranes. There were three juvenals in the flock this winter.

Hunters along the migration route have been advised not to shoot any large white birds. Of course this advice would reach only some of the hunters, but it should help. Much depends on the development of public sentiment.

Prairie Chickens. Great interest has developed among wildlife people in the problem of preventing extermination of this interesting species. Unfortunately, the prairie chicken does not tolerate agricultural use of the land in its vicinity. It must have wild grass lands of considerable size, and it suffers from illegal hunting as well as from natural enemies and other uncontrollable factors. Many articles on the subject have appeared recently in wildlife publications.



Indiana Dunes Project. Although there is growing interest in the problem of saving the remaining unoccupied Indiana dunes, there is also a persistent effort by promoters to bring industry into the region. Some of the opposition to a park in the dunes west of Dune Acres comes from people who do not want industry in the area, but who also feel there is no danger from industrial entry. Many of these people have little personal objections. Some have cabins in the area and don't like the idea of more people picnicking on the beach. This attitude exists also in the minds of some of the residents of Dune Acres and Ogden Dunes. Small businessmen for many miles around favor development of industry in the region, with little regard for the recreational values involved. Inertia and apathy are important difficulties in getting public support. More information may be obtained on the subject by writing to Mrs. Willard Butz, Box 952, Ogden Dunes, Gary 5, Indiana.



Illinois Beach State Park. Although Illinois Beach State Park was established with recognition by the state that only the north portion of the park would be used for general recreation, with the parking area near the center border, there are persons who persist in promoting the use of all portions of the park not covered with marsh for picnicking and bathing. A columnist in the *Waukegan News-Sun* has persistently promoted developing the entire park as a playground like Jones Beach on Long Island. He has ridiculed the "fauna and flora boys." Recently, there has been promotion of a scheme to provide ponds for duck refuges by dams in Dead River. One of these plans would involve flooding the region north of the present entrance road to the west. Persons get active on such schemes without regard for the careful planning of those who have been interested in the park for years.

The Natural History Advisory Committee for Illinois Beach State Park gives careful attention to various proposals which would involve alteration of the natural features of the park, but the Committee supports a policy of keeping the park in its original condition as much as possible. Of course, provision for recreation has involved regrettable alterations, but to get the park, recreation had to be recognized. It was logical to construct a concrete parking place and roads close to the bath house, but it would have been better if several smaller parking floors had been constructed. Picnickers do not usually wander far from their cars, and they have already begun

wearing out the region near the parking area. Because the water in Lake Michigan is cold in this area, there are many more picnickers than bathers. They come to the park on some summer holidays in much greater numbers than can be accommodated at present. The number admitted to the park is limited by the parking space available. There has been a tendency to overflow into the educational or nature study area. This condition should be improved this summer.

A new road has been surveyed, and it is promised for this year. It involves an extension of Highway 173 into the north end of the park and south to the present parking area. It is expected that other parking areas will be placed along the road to the north. This arrangement should help in keeping picnickers away from parts of the park where there should be no picnicking.

If the important natural features of the park are to be preserved, much more land is needed. There are privately owned tracts between the park and the railroad, some of which project into the park. These should be added to the park in order to protect it from undesirable developments and practices. A narrow strip along Lake Michigan extending from the north boundary of the park to Camp Logan should be acquired in order to provide for the rapidly increasing numbers of picnickers. This should be done very soon before the prices asked for the land become prohibitively high.

5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago 37



Old *Audubon Bulletins* Needed

THE SOCIETY maintains a file of back numbers of the *Audubon Bulletin* for sale to libraries, other ornithological societies, and bird students requiring specific information for bird study projects. The supply of many of the older numbers is almost exhausted; "Issue Number One" is now unavailable.

If you have a collection of back numbers of the *Bulletin* — No. 20 and older — which contain "extras" that you can spare, the Society would be happy to receive them. Please write to the attention of the Editor.

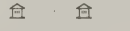
After reviewing the costs of producing the *Bulletin*, the Board of Directors voted that all back numbers, regardless of date, would be sold by mail for a higher price — 25c per copy. This is approximately the printing cost. Copies sold at the desk before and after the "Audubon Screen Tours" at the Museum Theater will still be sold at a lower cost, as before, since mailing expense is saved.

Book Reviews

A Guide to the Wild Flowering Plants of the Chicago Region, by Floyd A. Swink; Rockrose Press, Inc., 1225 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill.; $3.00.

Those of us who have struggled with limited success to identify plants by using the classical form of "key" as exemplified by Gray's or even Britton & Brown's botanies, will hail with joy a key that can be used successfully without a higher degree in botany, without a microscope and without picking the flower or digging up the root. The code key requires only six characteristics that are easily determined in the field; sometimes habitat must be considered. This is a new departure in keys and is applicable at least to this region. A separate key is used for the conifers. The grasses, sedges and rushes are not included, and the willows, hawthorns, dodders, goosefoots, etc. are not carried through to the ultimate species because of highly technical differences. About one thousand groups of plants are covered. There are twenty-four excellent drawings illustrating the different types of flowering and leafing. Everybody interested in the out-of-doors should have this book as a field companion. The author is associated with the department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmacology, College of Pharmacy, University of Illinois, in Chicago, and is well known as a leader of field trips for interested organizations.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago



Round River, from the personal notes of Aldo Leopold. Oxford University Press, 114 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y. $3.00.

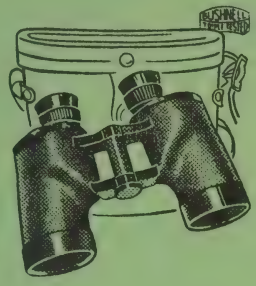
This is a compilation from the hitherto unpublished notes of Aldo Leopold, edited by Luna B. Leopold. It is a companion piece to "A Sand County Almanac," which has delighted so many readers who appreciate the beauty of nature. While a number of the chapters are devoted to hunting, fishing and exploring, largely while in the U. S. Forest Service in his early life, even these writings are imbued with the vision of a poet.

More serious chapters may be found in "Round River," after which the book is named; these have the subtitle, "a parable." Here is a description in poetry (though not in rhyme) of the interdependence of the soil and all living things, that could be written only by a master mind in conservation. This is further revealed in chapters entitled conservation and natural history, in which Leopold mentions the intimate study of a sparrow by an Ohio housewife, meaning of course our Mrs. Nice.

In 1933 the University of Wisconsin created a chair of game management which was headed by Aldo Leopold. The line drawings by Charles W. Schwartz are excellent and in keeping with the style of the book.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

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ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY will fill mail orders for almost any book in the field of ornithology, nature study or conservation. Books not now at hand can be obtained following receipt of order. The following volumes are in stock:

A Guide to Bird Finding, by Olin S. Pettingill. $6.00.

Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger T. Peterson. $3.75.

A Guide to Bird Watching, **by Joseph J. Hickey. $4.00.**

Exploring Our National Parks, Devereux Butcher. $2.50.

Birds at Home, **by Marguerite Henry. $2.00.**

Traveling with the Birds, **by Rudyerd Boulton. $2.00.**

Golden Nature Guide Books. **A series of nature guides, pocket size, for children and beginners. We have the following volumes: Birds; Wild Flowers; Insects; Stars. $1.00 each.**

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests and rodents.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$50.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 90 *June, 1954*

Natural History Survey

THE
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(ORGANIZED IN 1897)
For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

Telephone WAbash 2-9410

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Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Ill.

Number 90 *June, 1954*

Harry Smith Retires From Board

By Mrs. Janet Zimmermann

Retirement to a life of leisure spent bird-chasing in the West is all very nice for Harry Smith, but it is hard on his friends back in Chicago and Evanston. Harry and his charming wife, Marie, pulled up their roots in the Middle West, and left for Los Angeles on March 26. His retirement follows nearly thirty years in the Savings Department of the First National Bank of Chicago, and as many years in conservation work in the Chicago area.

At the April meeting of the Board of Directors, Harry Smith was made Honorary Vice-President of the Illinois Audubon Society. He was President of the Society from June, 1951, to June, 1953, and Treasurer from December, 1948, to June, 1950. For many years, until he became President, he was also Chairman of the Membership Committee. He was responsible for building up the membership very substantially from the low point to which it fell during the second World War. His correspondence with nature and bird study clubs throughout the state made the Society well-known, and is the foundation on which the Directors are now working to coordinate the conservation activities of state organizations. For several years Harry was also President of the Chicago Ornithological Society.

Most of the ardent birders in the Chicago area know Harry's study of the spring arrival dates of migrating warblers. His notes are models of careful observation and accurate recording. First published in the *Illinois Audubon Bulletin* in March, 1950, the study was reprinted in leaflet form and can be obtained from the Society.

For the past two years Harry had been working on a Distributional Bird List of the State of Illinois, in cooperation with the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. In January of this year he turned his records over to the Museum for completion.

After so many years of leadership in the Society's work, Harry Smith will be greatly missed. At the time of this writing, he and Marie were rambling up and down the coast of California, trying to decide whether to settle on the Coast, or in Prescott, Arizona, where they have relatives. We hope that they aren't going to miss that little grand-daughter back in Evanston too desperately, and that wherever they decide to make their home they will find happiness and good birding.

604 Ravine Ave., Lake Bluff, Illinois

A National Park or a Wasteful Dam

By Raymond Mostek

The defense of Dinosaur National Monument and our entire National Park System now moves onto the floor of Congress. The House Irrigation Subcommittee has voted in favor of including a dam at Echo Park in the Upper Colorado River Basin Project. Secretary of the Interior McKay is pushing this legislation with all the power at his command. President Eisenhower has not even been informed of the imminent danger to the Park System, but his office has approved the entire package. It appears that all of our protests to the President are being sidetracked. Our only hope now is that sufficient people will make themselves and their friends informed and then write their opinion on this legislation to their own Congressman. This is an issue on which no one can remain neutral.

Here is how to answer briefly the spurious contentions of those officials and others who are seeking to desecrate our National Park System with a dam at Dinosaur:

1. "*The Dinosaur bones are safe.*" This is not the issue. We are concerned with saving the rich and scenic canyons. Echo Park Dam would rise 525 feet, almost covering Steamboat Rock.

2. "*The beauty of the Monument would not be destroyed.*" The reservoir would drown more than 10,000 acres of scenic terrain, destroying its vegetation and the life dependent on that vegetation.

3. "*With reservoirs, a greater attraction to more people. . .*" Dinosaur is just being made known. Travel to it is increasing rapidly. With a small expenditure by Congress, still more thousands will be visiting the park in the future. A muddy, fluctuating lake is not to be compared as a scenic attraction with rugged canyons.

4. "*The sheer walls preclude roads into most of the scenic areas.*" Access is easily possible to Castle Park, Echo Park, Gates of Lodore, and Split Mountain Gorge. Trails can make more areas available to the general public.

5. "*The dam would not set a precedent because of a Park Service promise.*" It is becoming increasingly apparent that one can no longer depend on the Interior Department and especially on Secretary McKay to protect our national resources. McKay has refused to fight for adequate funds for the National Park Service, has allowed the exploiters to make outrageous profits on mineral and mining claims, and by supporting the dam invasion at Dinosaur, is failing to defend the National Park Service as the law requires.

6. "*The Interior Department proposes to spend $21 million to develop recreational potential.*" This is fantastic. A fraction of this amount could make Dinosaur Monument a first class attraction. The proposed expenditure equals 75% of the entire 1955 National Park Service budget.

If the local interests, hungry for profits, can succeed at Dinosaur, there will be a similar line-up at all of our National Parks.

3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago

Bird Watchers Wanted — III

By JAMES H. ZIMMERMAN

ONCE AGAIN THE Wisconsin Society for Ornithology would like to have cooperative reports on bird observations from members of the Illinois Audubon Society. (See the September, 1953 and March, 1952 issues of the *Audubon Bulletin*). The reports received last year were most encouraging. About 7500 observations were received, representing 47 states and provinces. Cooperators were most numerous in New York, Wisconsin, Ontario, Illinois, and Pennsylvania, respectively. The arrival dates for the 28 species on the 1953 list have been put on I.B.M. punch cards on file at the Patuxent Research Refuge. These reports are already being used by several research workers.

Nine additional species have been added to the list for 1954. The success of the various studies depends directly upon the number of observations received. We need even more reports than we received in 1953, if we are to reach our objectives in correlating migratory movements with specific weather conditions. You should urge other persons in your community to report their arrival dates also. In Illinois, cooperation was good from the northern third of the state, but more observers in the central and south portions are desired.

Please write to me at the address below for a list of the species to be reported and the form to be used. Simple postcard reports are adequate in many instances. Special attention should be paid, as before, to arrivals, concentrations, and departures of Canada Geese and White-Throated Sparrows. Send reports to Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland. I will gladly answer all questions.

2114 Van Hise Ave., Madison, Wisconsin

Last Year's Christmas Census

A NUMBER OF comments, both favorable and unfavorable, have been received by your editor regarding the Christmas Census published in the March issue of the *Bulletin*. Probably the most helpful analysis has come from Mr. Philip DuMont of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

Mr. DuMont pointed out that, while the tabular type of census report has proved most useful, our own report was so large and cumbersome that much of its value was lost. We were painfully aware of this fact during the long hours spent typing the table! In addition, the table was so wide that our regular printer could not fit all the columns into the page, and it was necessary to have all the data printed on a special typewriter, photographed, and reduced to the size published. The resultant expense came close to 40% of

the cost of printing a regular issue of the *Bulletin.*

Another criticism by Mr. DuMont, and a justifiable one, was that the separate reports were not comparable. For instance, some were reports of a large group of observers covering a wide terrain for the greater part of a day, while others were brief studies made by one person for a few hours. An erroneous impression was given concerning "AH:" the tabulation actually included another series of observations made a week later, in which the length of time spent in watching birds was not specified.

It is obvious that some changes must be made if our Christmas counts are to be of any great value. From an expense standpoint, we cannot afford to print a table 26 columns wide. It will be necessary to limit our Census in a number of ways. We have obtained from Mr. DuMont a set of "Instructions for Making Bird-Population Studies" from the National Audubon Society. These instructions will be observed as much as possible in setting up our own rules.

First of all, the reporting group should consist of at least three experienced observers, covering an area approximately 15 miles in diameter. The exact size of the area is not so important as the variety of habitats covered — preferably marsh, open water, prairie, forest edge, and as many other types of landscape as may be available. The observations should be made for at least six hours, on a single day within the Census period. Duplicate or overlapping coverage of a single area cannot be permitted. Reports covering the highest counts over the same area taken on successive days, whether by the same or different observers, will not be allowed.

These rules will make it necessary for members who wish to make a Christmas Count to make their plans and organize their groups in advance. While this may work a hardship on some members in isolated areas, it will certainly improve the quality of our reports. Remember that your relatives and young friends can be trained to become competent observers in a short time — and it's always much more fun to go birding with a group, anyway.

Your editor will make the National Society's instructions available for those of you who would like to study them in greater detail. These rules will be re-defined in our December issue, when the dates for the next Census will be announced. If any of you have any suggestions or questions, your editor would be glad to hear from you.

1835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39

Correction, Please!

THE SOCIETY HAS heen informed that the spring bird walks in Lincoln Park are being conducted by Mr. Harold Lenz and Mr. John Jahns this year, rather than by Miss Doris Plapp. We are sorry that this error crept into the *Bulletin.* Mr. Lenz also substituted for Miss Plapp last year, during her illness. We send our thanks to these two gentlemen for the fine public service they are performing at their own expense.

An Audubon Camp for Wisconsin

By Mrs. Irene Mostek

It is good news to learn that the National Audubon Society plans to open a nature and conservation training center in Wisconsin. This will be the first of its kind in the Middle West. The site, a 300-acre tract near Spooner, Wisconsin, has been described as an ideal spot because of its natural habitat, including a mixed hardwood forest, a scattering of pines, and a spruce-tamarack bog. Two lakes are within the property.

The camp site is to be given to the society by Miss Frances Andrews of Minneapolis as a memorial to her brother and mother. The National Audubon Society plans to conduct five two-week sessions at the camp each summer, beginning in 1955. The camp will serve as an outdoor classroom for youth leaders and other adults who wish to receive field instruction from trained naturalist and conservationists.

This new camp will follow the pattern of the successful camps now operated by the National Society in California, Maine and Connecticut. However, friends of the Audubon camp have emphasized that funds of almost $69,000 will be required before the camp can be opened. This sum is based on an architect's estimate of building and initial equipment needs. Two fund-raising committees, one in Wisconsin and one in Minnesota, are now seeking to raise $50,000 by this spring. Over $18,000 has already been contributed. Midwesterners who wish to contribute to the fund may do so by writing to the Wisconsin Audubon Camp Committee, Mrs. F. L. Larkin, Chairman, 5333 N. Idlewild Avenue, Milwaukee 11, Wisc. Widespread support has already been indicated by many garden clubs, bird clubs, conservation groups and individuals.

The words of Dr. Paul B. Sears, Professor of Conservation at Yale University, are worth quoting on the value of these Audubon camps: "The Audubon Society is naturally associated in the public mind with birds, and rightly enough. But here is a group whose concern actually is with the whole living landscape.

"Rocks, soil, water, wind and sun, plants of the land and sea, animals vertebrate and invertebrate. . . these are not merely catalogued, but shown in their dynamic relation as part of a great natural community. If this merely adds to the joy of living for those whose eyes are being opened, it will be enough. But this kind of experience goes far deeper. It goes to strengthen our whole way of life. In this most powerful country in the world, we smugly assume that what we enjoy is entirely due to some kind of innate superiority over the rest of mankind. . . forgetting how much we owe to a continent whose riches were untapped until three hundred years ago. We have used it and abused it, destroying the delicate balance between the landscape, soil, water, and life whereby its stores of organic wealth had accumulated. The tragedy of America is that we act as though we can ignore the great, immutable laws of nature.

"Happily, we still have a great margin of safety compared with older civilizations. If we wish to remain free, we must learn to use our present

opportunity to conserve the resources which have made us so. We must learn to understand the environment around us, and then take the responsibility of seeing that it is kept in good health. So you see why I think that the National Audubon Society with its camps is not merely an idle promoter of dicky-bird watching, but a potential force in our society."

3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago

Ed. Note: Recognizing the great value of an Audubon Camp in the Midwest, the Board of Directors voted last month to send a sizable donation to the Wisconsin Committee. Individual members are urged to do likewise.

Annual Meetings

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY held its annual meeting at the Chicago Natural History Museum on Saturday, May 8, 1954. Over 80 members and friends attended; an even larger number appeared at the banquet in the evening in the Museum Cafeteria. Some new members were elected to the Board of Directors, and the officers gave a report of their work during the past year. A full account of the meeting and the subsequent field trip will be given in the September issue of the *Bulletin.*

The September issue will also contain a brief account of the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, which took place May 1-2, 1954. A number of our Directors attended and also visited the Aldo Leopold Memorial Forest.

Bird Records from Tri-Cities

By PETER C. PETERSEN, JR.

HERE ARE THE unusual birds observed during the last half year in the Moline-Rock Island-Davenport area. Some are unusual as species, while others are remarkably late or early:

Horned Grebe — two seen October 25, 1953 near Lock #13 on the Mississippi river. 20X scope.

Whistling Swan — four seen April 4, 1954, near Lock #13. 20X scope.

Hudsonian Godwit — seven seen April 19, 1954 at Spring Lake, near Savanna, Illinois. 20X scope.

Sanderling — 12 seen October 18, 1953; two seen October 25, at Spring Lake. 20X scope.

Migrant Shrike — one seen December 12, 1953, near Thomson, Illinois, by Thomas Morrissey and myself. Observed through 8X binoculars and 20X scope. This is a late date for Migrants. We ordinarily find Northern Shrikes starting about December 27.

Harris's Sparrow — one seen October 11, 1953, near Coal Valley, Illinois. 8X binoculars.

620 E. Thirtieth St., Davenport, Ia.

Conservation Notes and News

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Wooded Island in Jackson Park. Wooded Island in Jackson Park, Chicago, is famous with bird watchers not only in Chicago, but nationally. One hears often of visitors to Chicago, with a little time to spare, who go out to Wooded Island to study birds there. A writer in the November number of *Nature Magazine* described beautifully the charm of Wooded Island and her experiences during a single visit to see birds. During the years 1904 to 1914, when I gave a course in ornithology at the University of Chicago, I took my classes to Wooded Island four times a week in the early morning for periods of one and one half hours through April and May. There were always enough birds to keep us busy.

In January, I learned that the Chicago Park District was considering a plan to fill the west lagoon which lies along the west side of Wooded Island. This was explained as due to a desire for more land by the division of recreation which is concerned especially with sports. I wrote a "letter to the editor" in protest to the *Chicago Daily News,* which was published March 15. Later, we learned through the press and the radio that the U.S. Army had made an agreement with the Chicago Park District to pay $100,000 towards filling the lagoon, in return for which the Army was to occupy Wooded Island as a base for guided missiles to defend the city against possible atom bomb attacks.

Many people who have enjoyed the trees, flowers, birds and other attractions of Wooded Island were dismayed by this news. As a result of many letters and phone calls, there was a hearing in the office of the Superintendent of the Chicago Park District, Mr. George T. Donohue. This was attended by three representatives of the army and four members of the park staff. Also present were leaders in civic affairs of the region near Jackson Park. They pointed out the great loss in cultural values which the army plan for the park involved. It was also noted that filling the west lagoon would destroy much of the cultural value of Wooded Island. It would no longer be an island with its present seclusion. The army representatives took our protest under advisement. We have not yet heard whether the army plan will be changed.

Ed. Note: *As this issue of the* Bulletin *went to press, Dr. Strong telephoned to say that he had just received a letter from the Hon. Paul Douglas, U.S. Senator from Illinois, stating: "The U.S. Army has abandoned its plan to occupy Wooded Island in Jackson Park as a guided missile base. Alternate sites will be studied." This is good news for all members of the Society. While Senator Douglas has previously expressed opposition to Wooded Island and Dinosaur Dam projects, it is not known at this writing whether he actually interceded in this instance. However, it is certain that the many letters from conservationists in Illinois, as well as the public protest meetings by neighborhood groups near Jackson Park, were of some effect in inducing the U.S. Army to change its mind.*

(*Continued on next page*)

Blue Grass Helps Prairie Chickens. *Conservation News* for February 15 reported that Dr. Fred Hamerstrom has found that large-scale growing of blue grass for seed has been favorable to prairie chickens. Where large tracts are covered with blue grass which is not grazed and is not cut until the seed is mature, the birds are able to raise their broods under favorable conditions. This has occurred recently in the Portage and Waushara counties region of Wisconsin.

Summer Field Courses in the Cook County Forest Preserve District. The Chicago Teachers College has cooperated with the Cook County Forest Preserve District during the past five years in conducting a resident nature camp in the Palos Park region which will be continued this coming summer at Camp Sagawau. Field courses of two weeks each will be offered during July and August, and they carry full college credit. They are also acceptable towards the master's degree at Chicago Teachers College. There is no tuition charge for Illinois teachers.

Indiana Dunes Project. The *Woman's Home Companion* conducted a nation-wide survey to select the ten top club women for distinguished community service and improvement. Mrs. James Buell, president and organizer of the Save the Dunes Council, was one of the ten named, and her work in organizing the group and as president was cited in the selection. This is a fine recognition of the splendid work Mrs. Buell is doing with the Indiana Dunes project.

The Conservation Council has given the Indiana Dunes project a program each year. This season, the March meeting heard an address by Mr. Earl H. Reed, a Chicago architect who now lives near the Indiana dunes. He described the history of the Indiana Dunes region. His father was a famous dunes artist and a worker for the dunes cause.

Policy of the Department of the Interior. Up to the time when this was written, the policy of the Department of the Interior has been disappointing from the standpoint of conservation. Letters addressed to President Eisenhower have been turned over to the office of the Secretary of the Interior. Apparently, President Eisenhower is being screened from current efforts to protect our national resources and the National Park System. Secretary Douglas McKay and his assistants have aroused justifiable criticism in their handling of important conservation matters. Letters to your Congressmen and to the President, objecting to this situation, may be of some help.

Birds of the Great Northwest

II. Tours from Klamath Falls

By Esther A. Craigmile

(*Concluding the article begun in the December, 1953 issue.*)

On August 15 we motored along Upper Klamath lake enroute to Crater lake. White pelicans dotted the waters. Western grebes were abundant, with young often perched on the backs of their parents. Farallon cormorants sat erect on a log or flew in flocks. Tri-colored red-winged blackbirds were numerous. One Pacific loon was observed. American coots and ring-billed gulls were common. Huge flocks of tree, violet-green, barn and cliff swallows and purple martins perched on wires along the highway. Other records as we entered the park were: mountain bluebird 50, golden eagle 3, Steller's jay 6, Shufeldt's junco 25, Western tanager 1. On the rim of Crater lake we found fifty Clark's nutcrackers feeding from the hands of visitors. Thirty years ago the nutcrackers lived secluded lives back in the forest among the snowbanks. Now they are easily the most conspicuous bird at an altitude of 5000 feet. Shufeldt's junco and flocks of pale goldfinches were observed. The Willow goldfinch was found in lower altitudes.

Returning through the Wood river valley, we found bird life abundant: turkey vulture 6, sparrow hawk 1, marsh hawk 6, American rough-legged hawk 1, short-eared owl 1, Western meadowlark 1, Canada goose 125, mallard duck 50, yellow-headed blackbird 25, Brewer's blackbird 200, northwestern red-wing 50, savannah sparrow 12, nighthawk 50, mourning dove 3, crow 1, American egret 150, and killdeer omnipresent.

The next day found us enroute to the Deschutes river. Black-billed magpies, singly or in flocks of a dozen or more, were frequently seen. In the Deschutes camp, Canada jays were everywhere, even visiting the outdoor lunch tables uninvited. A pair of Bendire's crossbills (red) often gleaned fearlessly from the ashes of campfires. Northern pileolated, Audubon's and myrtle warblers frequented the bushes beside the mountain stream. Shufeldt's junco, vesper sparrows and a Modoc song sparrow visited the camp site. Both the black-capped and mountain chickadees were about the camp. The Oregon ruffed grouse, kingfisher, rufous hummingbird, swallows and Western flycatchers were along the stream. Water ouzels fed under the tumultous waters.

In the evening of August 23, as we drove from Klamath Falls to Oregon Technical University, we found a dead Lewis's woodpecker on the highway and saw a live one in the tree tops. A flock of 1000 pintails passed over us at dusk. In the heights above the city the valley quail were conversing. Twelve to fifty of these dainty birds would visit our garden for grain all winter long.

On August 31 we left the Cascades and were soon observing the bird life on Drews Reservoir, a great irrigation project. It was also a veritable bird haven. Caspian, common, Forster's and black terns were flocking. Gulls

and white pelicans occupied one cove. A flock of 100 Canada geese occupied another nook, not at all concerned by a bald eagle soaring above. Western, eared and pied-billed grebes abounded.

Soon we were in rugged, hilly country. Western meadowlarks in song greeted our approach. We spotted a white-headed woodpecker and heard the calls of nuthatches, long-tailed chickadees, Shufeldt's juncoes and kinglets. After dinner at Alturus, California, we drove for miles through the brush, searching for the sage hen. September 1 was open season on sage hens in California and the wily birds had evidently secreted themselves. I saw none. Even our guide found none the following day. In the swamps around Alturus were seen avocet, greater yellowlegs, black-necked stilt, Wilson's snipe, yellow warbler, Western yellow-throat, spotted sandpiper, killdeer, sora rail, short-eared owl, and many Western species of ducks.

Spectacular irrigation projects were observed on this trip and that to Tule lake. Drained lakes leave the ground white with alkali. This is washed from the ground which later produces great crops of grain and potatoes when irrigated. Great flocks of English sparrows frequent these rich grain areas. I saw no English sparrows on the Olympic Peninsula and only two in Seattle.

On September 7 we traveled to Aspen lake, Rocky Point and Lake of the Woods. We halted at Eagle ridge, where we found a dead California pygmy owl that had been shot. It was a tiny thing, only seven inches long, smaller than our saw-whet. At Rocky Point we drank coffee with Mr. and Mrs. Timmons, the caretakers. He showed us ospreys catching rainbow trout and I pointed out the black-headed grosbeak eating elderberries. He showed us a spot in the distance where the white pelicans had their nursery. Inlets on Klamath lake were dotted with ducks too far off for identification.

By September 10 the swamps south of town were alive with migrants. In an hour toward evening we saw huge flocks of Canada and snow geese, cinnamon, blue and green-winged teal, widgeon, ruddy, pintail, mallard, black, shoveller, canvasback, baldpate, and lesser scaup ducks flying from the ponds to huge wheat fields supervised by the Fish and Wildlife Service for attracting the wild fowl. Fringes of this area are rich hunting territory. Game leaves unprotected areas by the thousand at daybreak and returns in the afternoon. The sky is literally black with the huge flocks.

On September 13, as we headed for Spring lake, we were halted on the highway by thousands of migrating swallows perched all over farm buildings and telephone wires. Violet-green and barn swallows predominated, but all varieties were well-represented. It was much more spectacular than were the fall migrations of purple martins in the hawthorns along the west bank of the DesPlaines river at Maywood. At Spring lake the rushes were densely populated with yellow-headed blackbirds, with the golden feathers glistening in the sun. The white patches on the wings were conspicuous in flight.

The red-shafted flicker and Gairdner's (downy) woodpecker were the most commonly observed members of their family. An Arctic three-toed was seen with a white-headed woodpecker. In swamps south of town, the red-naped and Williamson's sapsuckers were listed among fall migrants.

Roger Tory Peterson's *Guide to the Western Birds* was of great aid in naming species. For local lists I found Ira Gabrielson and Jewett's *Birds of Oregon, 1940* of value. Florence M. Bailey's *Handbook of Birds of Western U.S.* has been a must in Western bird study since 1905. Finley's *Birds of Oregon* gave great delight as we sought to identify the uncommon native birds of the great Northwest.

315 N. La Grange Road, La Grange, Illinois

Screen Tours in Review

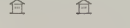
THE PAST SEASON was memorable for the unusual lectures the Society presented in the Chicago Natural History Museum. As a means of reducing expenses, the Directors decided to contract for only three Audubon Screen Tours, with the thought that the rest of the program could be filled by local talent. The scheme did not work as well as expected, since it was far harder to unearth the required "talent" than anyone had expected. Nevertheless, the five lectures shown represented the most varied and absorbing talks we have enjoyed in many years.

Allan Cruickshank came first, showing his color movie on "Santa Lucia Sea Cliffs," on November 1, 1953. His pictures of the rugged California coast included such remarkable birds as the arctic tern, long-billed curlew, golden eagle, and others. Next, on January 17, 1954, **Ernest P. Edwards** showed "Land of the Scarlet Macaw," a record of his expedition into the back country of Mexico by jeep to find and photograph natives as well as bird life. Then, on February 28, came one of the "bonus" programs — **Conrad J. Albrecht** with his unforgettable pictures of life in the frozen wastes above the Arctic circle. We believe he is the first photographer to record the Northern Lights on Kodachrome.

The fourth program, and third Screen Tour, on March 14, presented **Tom and Arlene Hadley** in "America the Beautiful," a naturalist's travelog of our country from coast to coast, with many absorbing side excursions. Last, on April 25, and most memorable, were **Cleveland Grant's** pictures of nesting birds of the Western Plains, including detailed close-ups of a long-suffering male avocet and a complete history of the development of young Swainson's hawks. Then followed an intensely interesting "short subject" — the **Sierra Club's** movie of Dinosaur Monument and Echo Park, with its haunting musical score and thrilling trip down the raging cascades of the Green river. When the camera showed the depressing vistas of drowned canyons, billboards and beer halls at older dam projects, we knew why we are fighting to prevent the building of Echo Park Dam.

Arrangements have already been completed for next winter's Screen Tours, but the program will not be announced until the September issue. Needless to say, there will be five regular lectures from the National Audubon Society this time — your Directors have had enough scurrying about to find "replacement lecturers" at the last moment! And now that the in-

door season is over, we hope that all of you will be inspired to take your binoculars and cameras and go out to see all those wonderful scenes at first hand. Have a good summer — and good birding wherever you go!



From the Book Table

STEVE MATHER OF THE NATIONAL PARKS, by Robert Shankland; Alfred A. Knopf Publishing Co., 501 Madison Ave., New York 22, N.Y.; $4.00.

Here is told the story of one of the giants who fought the good fight to preserve and extend our areas of supreme scenic beauty for the benefit of all the people, in opposition to those who would exploit our resources for their own personal gain.

Steve Mather was an enlightened millionaire, a brilliant organizer, an inspirational leader and a man of irresistible charm. He was the first Director of our National Park Service, serving for over a decade (1915-1929). He helped establish the present high standards and public policy. He gave generously of his great wealth and his boundless strength and energy. "There will never come an end to the good that he has done."

This book is not only a fascinating biography of a sterling leader, but a fast-moving, enjoyable and thrilling account of our National Park System. This volume should be required reading for those men in high places who seek to destroy our National Park System through ill-conceived schemes such as placing dams in Dinosaur National Monument and other treasured areas.

Raymond Mostek, 3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18



SONGBIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN, by John K. Terres. Crowell Publishing Co., New York City, N.Y.; 274 pages; $3.95.

Any bird lover with just a wee bit of garden will find this newly published volume most useful. It overflows with instructions to assist the bird watcher in attracting birds to his back yard. One of the finest features of the book is that the author does not deal in mere generalities. Clear and forthright directions are given.

Mr. Terres explains what to feed the birds, how to feed them, where to obtain feed and how to prepare it. The discussions on bird houses, feeding stations and bird baths are further illuminated by diagrams.

Two observations by the author are worth recording. For the period from October to April, the total feeding bill to keep his yard alive all winter with at least fifty birds a day was exactly $18.00. The money was spent on 30 pounds of suet and 200 pounds of mixed bird seed. Since many members of the Illinois Audubon Society own the Audubon Bird Call, Mr. Terres' suggestions on the use of it are worthy of note. To be effective, the bird watcher

should be partly hidden from the birds he is trying to lure and he must stand or sit quietly.

The appendix is superb. Here one finds lists of birds that have fed from the hand; a list of bird foods; garden flowers that attract hummingbirds; a list of of helpful books and leaflets, etc. The author is a former government field biologist and is now associated with the National Audubon Society. The volume is further enhanced by an introduction by Edwin Way Teale, and a picture of the Western Tanager by Roger Tory Peterson on the jacket.

Raymond Mostek, 3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18

List of New Members

SUPPLEMENTING THE LIST published in the last issue of the *Bulletin*, here is a second group of new members — something of a record for the year. All of the names listed below are from Illinois with one exception. Those starred* are contributing members. We are glad to welcome all of these new members, and hope that they will join us in the work of protecting birds in Illinois. These names represent memberships (not renewals) received from Jan. 1, 1954 to the present:

Mrs. Corliss Anderson, Barrington
*Thomas M. Beers, Jr., Kenilworth
Mrs. H. W. Biringer, Barrington
Mrs. C. H. Brown, Barrington
Mrs. John J. Buchanan, Chicago
Miss Nettie Buell, Chicago
*Bureau Valley Bird Club, Princeton
*Cahokia Nature League, East St. Louis
Harold Corey, Chicago
Mrs. Paul Darling, Barrington
Mrs. Edith Ebert, Chicago
Mrs. Nelson Forrest, Barrington
Miss Marge German, Chicago
William Greenhouse, Chicago
Mrs. Charles Hammack, Barrington
Mrs. Minnie Hundley, Olney
Esther M. Latimer, Chicago
Isabel C. Lesch, Chicago
*Mary E. Macdonald, Chicago
Memorial Library of Ornithology, Mt. Vernon, Ia.
*Mrs. Mary Moore, Chicago
Moray Munroe, Chicago
Dr. Gertrude M. Novak, Chicago
Edward Novotny, Berwyn
James L. Repp, Chicago
Mrs. D. B. Robinson, Barrington
Mrs. R. Rost, Barrington
*Andrew Sage, Chicago
Mrs. Paul B. Simons, Barrington
Virginia Spence, Chicago
Mrs. Arthur R. Strubel, Barrington
Helen Tockstein, Chicago
Mildred Vitek, Chicago
Carolyn Wetzel, Chicago

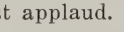
Book Reviews

THOSE OF THE FOREST is the title of a new nature book acclaimed by scientists as well as nature lovers in general, as both unique and a beautiful piece of writing. Wallace Byron Grange, the author, is a biologist with wide experience in wildlife research but he writes with such obvious love for all the forest creatures, (with a snowshoe rabbit as the leading character) that the reader is scarcely aware that he is adding to his store of scientific knowledge.

This is particularly true in regard to ecology, a subject that is too often ignored by the amateur nature student or dismissed as "too scientific." In beautiful prose, almost poetic at times, Mr. Grange continually reminds us of the interdependence of all forms of life, ecology in fresh garments that even the most prejudiced must applaud.

The charming illustrations by a fine naturalist, Olaus J. Murie, are another good reason for adding this book to your library. The publisher is the Flambeau Publishing Company of Babcock, Wisconsin. The price is $4.75. Members of the Society who wish to purchase this book may do so by writing to Mr. Raymond Mostek.

Harry R. Smith, 913 Michigan Ave., Evanston, Ill.



A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI, by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.; Oxford University Press, 114 Fifth Ave., New York; 709 pages, $6.00. This is a companion volume to "A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi" by the same author.

Since this book covers a large territory, much of the data is furnished by others. The chapter on California is credited to Charles G. Sibley and Howard L. Cogswell, and credit is given throughout to many contributors for local information.

A number of the localities described have been visited by this reviewer at one time or another over the years, usually on vacation trips, and it was a pleasure to recall the favored areas. Des Moines, Iowa is a fond schoolboy recollection, but the old remembered spots, such as Walnut, Four Mile and Beaver Creeks, and Becker's pasture are not mentioned, having been taken over by city growth. However new and, I hope, better areas are described. When in Los Angeles some years ago, I was directed by a member of the museum staff to the cliffs along the Santa Clara river, near Fillmore, where we saw condors, which bred there; also a prairie falcon. No mention is made of this. I hope the birds may still be there. This also applies to Laguna Beach, where a few years ago I saw innumerable shore birds: long-billed curlew, godwits, black-necked stilts, rails and innumerable sandpipers of several species. Perhaps too many humans have crowded them out. Tucson, Arizona, where this writer spent three weeks on a collecting trip for the Field Museum (now Chicago Natural History Museum), is well described. At Wichita Mountains Wild Life Refuge, both the bald and

golden eagles were seen frequently in early spring, also the ferruginous rough-legged hawk, probably winter visitors. We saw a meadow lark, apparently smaller than the Western, which sang the song of the Eastern. None was collected, so I do not know the exact species or sub-species.

The localities described are accompanied by explicit road directions, even to the parking of a car, which will certainly be appreciated by city people. The names of cities, parks, refuges, etc., as well as birds, are fully indexed, the names of birds being cross-indexed for locality. Altogether, this is a most complete Guide. The drawings by George Miksch Sutton, in black and white, are so perfect in detail that they are a joy to behold. One feels that to add color plates would detract from the integrity of the book.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago



WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA, from paintings by Mary Vaux Walcott and Dorothy Falcon Platt, edited by H. W. Rickett. Crown Publishing Company, 419 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N.Y. $10.00.

Mass production in color printing is certainly blossoming in this country (no pun intended). Several countries in Europe may be ahead of us in highly specialized, limited quantity production, but I think we can be justly proud of this work. Fully 400 flowers are shown in full color. The color plates are reproduced from the portfolio set by the same artist, published by the Smithsonian Institution, with additional paintings by Dorothy Falcon Platt. Included are some paintings of the conifers. The overintense greens and reds of color photography are entirely absent; instead, the colors are toned down to resemble water colors more closely. Interesting is the artistic shading by which white flowers are shown against the white page. The picture of the skunk cabbage is not quite up to the rich rockwood pottery brown as we see it in this region, but altogether the book is a beautiful example of the printing art, and will appeal to flower lovers everywhere.

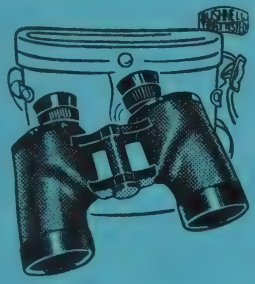
Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

Binoculars for Beginning Birders

As a "Summer Special," the Society is offering a new model of 6 power, 30 mm binoculars at low cost for young people who are beginning to study birds. These binoculars are individual focusing, but their depth of field is so great that young people, with their wider accommodation for focusing the eye, will be able to use the glasses at a single setting for all birds from 25 feet to infinity. If you know of a young relative or friend who will be studying nature out-of-doors this summer, you would be well advised to send him these binoculars as a gift. The price for I. A. S. members is $26.00 plus 10% federal tax. For information, write directly to our Treasurer, Mr. John H. Helmer, 847 Ridge Ave., Evanston, Illinois.

Books are another good "going away" gift for summer. The Society will obtain practically any nature study or conservation book on request, in addition to those already listed on the inside back cover. Interested members should write to our Book Chairman, Mr. Raymond Mostek, 3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18, Illinois. Remember, all purchases go to support the work of the Society.

Binoculars for Nature Study



BUSHNELL PRISM BINOCULARS provide high quality at low price. Clarity of optical systems compares favorably with expensive American-made or pre-war German binoculars.

BUSHNELL BINOCULARS are accurate — color-corrected — collimated for perfect alignment. Lightweight magnesium body. Prisms and lenses coated for increased brilliance. Sold with guarantee certificate, leather carrying case and straps.

The Illinois Audubon Society offers two models, selected particularly for bird students:

7 power, 35 mm: Field 375 ft. at 1000 yds. Exit pupil, 5 mm. Light efficiency, 37. Center focus. Weight 17 oz.; height, 4¾ inches.....**Each $58.50***

6 power, 30 mm: Field 445 ft. at 1000 yds. Exit pupil, 5 mm. Light efficiency, 37. Center focus. Weight, 15½ oz.; height, 4½ inches.....**Each $43.50***

Buy your binoculars through the Society and support its work in protecting birds and wildlife. To order, write the Illinois Audubon Society, Chicago Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Illinois.

** Plus 10% Federal Excise Tax*

Audubon Bird-Calls

A simple birch cylinder with a metal handle, two inches long over all, weighing a few ounces. When twisted, it produces sounds that attract a variety of song birds.....**Each $1.25**

Books for Nature Study

FIELD GUIDES NATURE LITERATURE

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY will fill mail orders for almost any book in the field of ornithology, nature study or conservation. Books not now at hand can be obtained following receipt of order. The following volumes are in stock:

A Guide to Bird Finding, by Olin S. Pettingill. $6.00.

Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger T. Peterson. $3.75.

***A Guide to Bird Watching,* by Joseph J. Hickey. $4.00.**

Exploring Our National Parks, Devereux Butcher. $2.50.

***Birds at Home,* by Marguerite Henry. $2.00.**

***Traveling with the Birds,* by Rudyerd Boulton. $2.00.**

Golden Nature Guide Books. A series of nature guides, pocket size, for children and beginners. We have the following volumes: Birds; Wild Flowers; Insects; Stars. $1.00 each.

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests and rodents.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	$50.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 91 *September, 1954*

THE
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(ORGANIZED IN 1897)
For the Protection of Wild Birds

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS — Telephone WAbash 2-9410

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1954 Annual Meeting

By ANNE BAYLESS

THE MOST AMBITIOUS and successful annual meeting of the Illinois Audubon society held to date, according to those present, took place on Saturday, May 8. A varied program held the interest of the spectators the entire day, and was capped by a dinner that night, followed by a field trip on May 9.

The meeting took place in the lecture hall of the Chicago Natural History Museum. Outside the hall, the society offered books, bird calls, and other material for sale and did a brisk business between sessions.

Soon after 11 a.m., the day's activities were off to an informal start with a tour of the Museum led by William Beecher, a director of the Society who is doing research work in ornithology at the Museum. The tour began in the ornithological section, where Mr. Beecher displayed a number of bird skins not ordinarily available to visitors, and ended on the first floor where mounted bird specimens are shown.

Luncheon was informal also, with members eating as they pleased in the Museum cafeteria. The afternoon session began at 1:30 p.m. with approximately 70 persons present. Paul R. Downing, president, called the business meeting to order and gave a short address of welcome. He then introduced John Helmer, treasurer, who presented a report for the 10 months from July 1, 1953 to April 30, 1954:

Operating account, balance July 1, 1953		$ 806.49
Dues, Investment income, miscellaneous receipts		1,817.34
Sale of books, binoculars, etc.		720.71
Current expenses, 10 months	$1,704.01	
Total of goods purchased	553.36	2,257.37
Balance April 30, 1954		$1,087.17

Franklin McVey, first vice-president and chairman of the finance committee, gave an itemized report of the estimated budget for the next season. He said that his committee, while not recommending an increase in dues at this time, suggests that a membership drive be conducted and that active members be encouraged to become contributing members.

Raymond Mostek, second vice-president and chairman of the conservation committee, reported on the issues in which the Society is primarily interested at the moment, including Dinosaur National Monument, the preservation of Wooded Island in Jackson Park, Chicago, the protection of the mourning dove in Illinois, and the preservation of the Cook county forest

preserve district from being used as guided missile sites. He also reported the Society's contribution of $100 to the proposed National Audubon Society camp in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Walter Huxford, third vice-president and chairman of the education committee, gave an accounting of the educational work accomplished: progress on the distribution list of Illinois birds by Harry Smith, honorary vice-president, in cooperation with the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, and presentation of 10 lectures before various groups, using Evanston Bird Club slides. She mentioned that Mr. McVey has custody of the Illinois Audubon Society bird slides, which may be borrowed by responsible persons. The education committee will provide speakers for bird talks and leaders for field trips upon request, she reported.

Paul Lobik, *Bulletin* editor, reported that in the future, to reduce costs and follow the rules of the National Audubon Society, the annual Christmas Census reports will be limited to those with at least three observers and three hours in the field with a variety of habitats covered. The results will be put into one table, to be printed as usual in the March issue.

Mrs. Anne Bayless, chairman of the nominating committee, reported that the terms of eight directors were expiring: Paul Downing, John Helmer, Mrs. Anne Bayless, John Bayless, Mrs. Betty Mannette, Raymond Mostek, Paul Lobik, and William Beecher. She proposed they be reelected, and also proposed as new directors Milton D. Thompson, assistant director of the Illinois State Museum, Springfield; Miss Esther Bennett, Southern Illinois University Museum, Carbondale; and Miss Frances J. Carter, 5736 Stony Island Av., Chicago. All nominees were elected unanimously.

The business meeting was concluded at 2:15 p.m., and a program of talks followed. John Helmer spoke on binoculars, discussing the features to be looked for and the best types for bird watching, and showed examples of the binoculars the Society handles for sale.

William Beecher discussed "Photographing Birds Through Your Binoculars," and showed, with a camera, binoculars, and tripod, how it can be done. William A. Suter, noted amateur photographer and assistant principal at Lane Technical High School, talked on "Taking 35 mm. Kodachrome Transparencies," and showed a number of his slides. Mrs. John Helmer spoke on observations she and Mr. Helmer have made on the nesting of upland plovers in Evanston. Raymond Mostek and Paul Lobik held a "Conversation on Conservation" which covered many of the conservation problems of the state and nation. Mrs. Anne Bayless talked on how to plan a bird-watching vacation trip.

After a recess at 4 p.m., the talk schedule was resumed. Paul Lobik, pinch-hitting for Mrs. I. B. Wasson who was ill, gave an excellent report on the nature education available in classes at the Morton Aboretum, near Lisle, Illinois. Mrs. Mildred Rulison of Evanston, former supervisor of nature recreation and director of the Trailside Museum of the Union County park system, New Jersey, spoke on the opportunities for nature education a trailside museum provides, and showed slides. Roland Eisenbeis, superintendent of conservation for the Cook County Forest Preserve District,

talked on the "Little Red Schoolhouse," a forest preserve project for nature education.

Dinner in the Museum cafeteria at 5:30 was attended by 84 members and guests. A continuous table around three sides of the room was beautifully decorated with flowers, and at each place were nut cup favors in the shape of bird houses with a bird perched at the door, made by Mrs. Ruth Waller.

The evening program consisted of three talks. Peter Petersen, Jr. of Moline replaced Elton Fawks, who was unable to be present, for a report on "Needed Facts for a Mississippi Valley Bird Book," telling how many good birding areas there have no observers working them regularly. Milton D. Thompson spoke on "Making Your Bird Records Worth While," and touched on the Illinois Bird Distribution List now in preparation.

The featured speaker, Prof. Frank A. Brown, Jr., chairman of the biology department of Northwestern university, spoke on "Biological Clocks," and presented some fascinating studies on the timing devices governing the life processes of various animals, which continue to work even when outside influences are removed.

The field trip Sunday morning was attended by 50 persons. The hikers assembled at the Little Red Schoolhouse near Long John Slough in the Cook County Forest Preserves southwest of Chicago, where Roland Eisenbeis joined them. They covered that area, Saganashkee Slough, and the area south of the slough along the canal, then drove to Camp Sagawau forest preserve where they ate lunch. Mr. Eisenbeis led a tour of this area, where the Chicago Teachers College is offering courses in nature study to teachers for college credit during the summer. The field trip ended along the north side of Saganashkee Slough, about 3:30 p.m. Afterwards Karl Bartel took those who were interested to Swallow Cliff Woods to see the beautiful display of spring wildflowers in that area.

A total of 83 species was seen on the field trip, as listed below.

The two-day event's success was due principally to the work of the co-chairmen, Mrs. Walter Huxford and Franklin McVey. They were accorded a special vote of thanks at the Board of Directors meeting in June. Other members of the board also gave generously of their time and talents.

8925 Indian Boundary Road, Gary, Ind.

List of Birds Seen — 1954 Field Trip

Pied-Billed Grebe
Double-Crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
American Egret
Green Heron
Black-Crowned Night Heron
Mallard Duck
Baldpate Duck
White-Breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
Long-Billed Marsh Wren
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
American Robin
Wood Thrush
Hermit Thrush

Blue-Winged Teal
Wood Duck
Ring-Necked Duck
Greater Scaup Duck
Lesser Scaup Duck
Ruddy Duck
Red-Breasted Merganser
Red-Shouldered Hawk
Broad-Winged Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Osprey
Ring-Necked Pheasant
American Coot
Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Common Tern
Black Tern
Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Yellow-Shafted Flicker
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Kingbird
Eastern Phoebe
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Rough-Winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Purple Martin
Blue Jay
Common Crow
Black-Capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Eastern Bluebird
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet
Common Starling
Warbling Vireo
Black and White Warbler
Parula Warbler
Eastern Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Black-Throated Green Warbler
Eastern Palm Warbler
Northern Water-Thrush
Northern Yellow-Throat
Yellow-Breasted Chat
American Redstart
English Sparrow
Eastern Meadowlark
Red-Winged Blackbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Bronzed Grackle
Cowbird
Scarlet Tanager
Cardinal
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
American Goldfinch
Red-Eyed Towhee
Slate-Colored Junco
Field Sparrow
White-Crowned Sparrow
White-Throated Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow



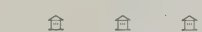
Audubon Lectures for 1954-55

The Illinois Audubon Society will return to its former practice of presenting five lecturers from the National Audubon Society for the coming season. While the two speakers who did not present "Screen Tours" last season gave excellent lectures, the Directors found the task of locating qualified speakers from outside the ranks of the national group was harder than had been expected. Moreover, the savings in cost was not great — hardly enough to justify the extra correspondence and arrangements necessary.

Hence, with a slight feeling of relief, we have contracted for the speakers

listed below. You will be pleased to see that they include some of America's best-known ornithologists, as well as some of our most popular commentators. As before, all of the talks will be illustrated by color movies, shown in the James Simpson theater of the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive. All talks will be Sunday matinees, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The usual printed announcements will be mailed to all members before the season begins. Here is the list:

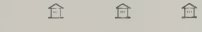
November 28, 1954: *Roger Tory Peterson* in "Wild America."
January 9, 1955: *Alfred G. Etter* in "A Missouri Story."
February 27, 1955: *Bert Harwell* in "Canada North."
April 3, 1955: *Patricia Bailey Witherspoon* in "Mormonland."
April 24, 1955: *Robert C. Hermes* in "The Grass Forest."



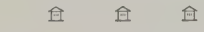
Wooded Island Is Saved

In the Last Issue of the *Bulletin,* Dr. Strong reported in his "Conservation News and Notes" that the Army had finally given up its plan to use the Wooded Island Bird Sanctuary in Jackson Park as a guided missile base. The appeals of Chicago area bird-lovers, augmented by vigorous protests from neighborhood groups, were successful at last in preserving this fine nature area for other generations of birds — and birders — to use and enjoy.

It has been learned that Senator Paul Douglas, Representative Barrett O'Hara, and Superintendent George Donoghue of the Chicago Park District succeeded in persuading the Army Corps of Engineers not to use the island as a base. Instead, the Army will take over the small island south of Wooded Island, filling in the lagoon to the south bridge and using the land so formed. Wooded Island will be more secluded than ever, as it will only be approachable from the north bridge.



Illinois Beach State Park will be enlarged if the next session of the Legislature follows the recommendation of Governor Stratton. For some time, plans have been considered for acquiring more lands west and north of the park. It is to be hoped that part of the increase may be used to expand the Nature Reserve Area.



Mourning Dove Protection will again be one of the issues to be presented before the Illinois Legislature when it meets next year. Members of the Conservation Committee of the Society are working now to find a sponsor for a new bill to prevent hunting of this valuable songbird.

The 1954 Wisconsin Meeting

By Dorothy Helmer

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology held its annual meeting at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Friday through Sunday, April 30-May 2, with eight members present from the Illinois Audubon Society: Paul and Eleanor Downing, John and Dorothy Helmer, Bertha Huxford, Irene Buchanan, Raymond Mostek and Karl Bartel. The Downings and Karl are old friends of W.S.O. bird banders.

Papers were read by members of the W.S.O. on studies they had made in Migration, Behavior and Population Relationships, and Ecological Geography of Wisconsin Birds, with these main headings subdivided into many topics. Among these were distributional studies of the quail and prairie chicken, a ten-year breeding study of tree swallows and eastern bluebirds, various relationships between red-tailed hawks and great horned owls, the "hybrid" songs of meadowlarks, and the use of first arrival dates from amateur bird records in the study of migration. A reception and banquet in the Memorial Union accommodated 250 members from all over the state, with the Rev. Howard Orians of Milwaukee as toastmaster. Movies were shown by Howard Cleaves, Carl Buchheister and Cleveland Grant of the National Audubon Society. In an adjoining room flourished the club's Supply Center, with "Everything for the Hobby."

Field trips on Sunday began at 5:00 a.m. I.A.S. members chose the trip to the Leopold Memorial Forest near Baraboo, with the prospect of going later to the bottom lands of the Wisconsin river which are "very rich in all kinds of wildlife, due to the dominance of a big husky mosquito which keeps people out." Our leader was Prof. Joseph J. Hickey of the Department of Wildlife Management of the university, who is president of the W.S.O. this year. He is one of the three trustees of the Aldo Leopold Memorial Trust, whose initial project has been the acquisition of the beautiful forest we visited, a native, wild preserve for education, research and recreation.

Rain poured all day. Karl was unable to get his photographs of wild flowers and our bird list was short. However, the 60 birders, in three groups, saw a total of 132 species. Looking back, we find that our impressions may be the sharper for not being too crowded.

During a stop at Devil's Lake we saw sheer cliffs and broken masses of red quartzite of the Baraboo range and on the flats, huge red birches three feet in diameter, their dark limbs fringed with tiny catkins. Flocks of myrtle warblers and white-throats were singing in the rain, with occasional wisps of other bird song. There were two red-bellied woodpeckers, more abundant here than at home because they come up the river valleys; and in the distance was the call, flicker-like but more rounded, of the pileated woodpecker. On the beach were some 200 myrtle warblers, the early mature males, eating may-fly larvae (so we were told). Two black ducks rose from the lake.

After this trial in the rain, Dr. Hickey ventured to take us up the high ridge of the Leopold Forest. There were no birds in sight here at all. Ruffed

grouse could be heard drumming faintly; along the trail we saw the freshly chipped hole of a pileated woodpecker, also deer tracks.

There is a variety of habitat in the forty acres of the Leopold Forest, and the birding should be good. Oaks and a few white pines make a canopy over the south slope, with hard maple and basswood coming on; oak dominates the crest of the ridge; and on the north slope is a climax forest of hemlock and hardwoods with trailing arbutus, wintergreen and many ferns. Below is a narrow valley with a tiny, spring-fed brook. The W.S.O. includes botanical and other surveys along with its bird study, and these were some of the features pointed out to us as part of the field trip.

It comes out that the Huxfords own a rugged 80 acres not far from here, and therefore Bertha felt much at home. We did not get to the river bottoms, but we shall long remember our walk thru the rain-drenched forest and our drive, with the mists veiling the green Baraboo hills.

We liked meeting our Wisconsin friends and seeing their bird club in action. Projected meetings in their area in the near future are the annual W.S.O. camp-out in Door County in June and A.O.U. meeting in Madison this fall.

847 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois

Bird Watchers Wanted — IV

By JAMES H. ZIMMERMAN

THE COOPERATIVE STUDY of fall migration is still in need of bird watchers from Illinois if the data from the Middle West is to be complete. As explained in the article in the last issue of the *Bulletin*, more reports are needed from the central and south portions of the state.

The Research Center at Laurel, Maryland is already tabulating the many reports submitted by observers from all over the country and Canada on the spring migration. Now an attempt will be made to cover the fall migration as well. Since few species sing during their southward movement, and since fewer observers are in the field, fall migration dates are comparatively hard to obtain. Therefore, all reports from field observers, bird banders, and feeding stations will be appreciated, even if they include only a few species.

Many of the fall migrants are silent or dull-colored, and some of these have been omitted for the purpose of this study. Seven other species have been added. The list below contains both nocturnal and diurnal migrants, early and late fliers, solitary and flocking species, all included for a specific purpose. Here are the ones to watch:

Canada Goose
Mallard Duck
Broad-Winged Hawk
Wilson's Snipe
Mourning Dove
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Crested Flycatcher
Catbird
Hermit Thrush
Golden-Crowned Kinglet
Myrtle Warbler
Baltimore Oriole
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak
Evening Grosbeak
Slate-Colored Junco
American Tree Sparrow
White-Crowned Sparrow
White-Throated Sparrow
Fox Sparrow

It is not necessary to fill in all the information requested for a given species. A single first date or peak date or last date will be useful, even if numbers observed and other dates are not available. Dates on which numbers of a species suddenly increase or decrease will also be helpful. As in spring, the more numbers reporting from a given area, the better.

Please send your fall 1954 report to your regional editor of "Audubon Field Notes," or to Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland. For additional information or report forms, write to me at the address below.

2114 Van Hise Ave., Madison, Wisconsin



Bird Records from Tri-Cities — III

By PETER C. PETERSEN, JR.

WHILE THE SPRING and summer at Tri-Cities have brought only a few rarities, they have provided some unusual nesting records. Here are the outstanding ones:

Hooded Merganser: Female and three young in Dead Slough, near mouth of Rock river, Rock Island county. The young were about three-fourths grown, capable of flight. Seen from canoe, distance about 30 feet, 8X binoculars. July 24.

Mallard Ducks: two pairs seen at Lock #13 on Mississippi river, August 4. Not certain whether these were nesters or early migrants. Mallards are common enough in spring and fall, but rarely seen here in midsummer.

Bank Swallows: nesting colony of 500 plus near Fulton, Whiteside county. The banks are soft and easy to dig; holes go back four to six feet. There are also colonies of 100 to 200 swallows at Cordova Quarry, Savanna, and Rock Island, in Carroll and Rock Island counties.

Dowitcher: one seen at Spring Lake, Carroll county, August 4.

Ring-Billed Gulls: three seen at Lock #13 on August 4. Again, an unusual time for seeing this species.

Eastern Kingbird: nest found near highway at Spring Lake, August 4. Contained three young, one or two days old. The nest was very noticeable, about six feet high in a small tree less than 20 feet from the highway.

Bell's Vireo: nest found at Cordova Quarry, July 24, by Doug Baily and myself. It contained three eggs. On July 28 the young appeared to be one or two days old; on August 4, they had feathers half out of the quill. The nest was three feet high in a box elder.

620 E. Thirtieth St., Davenport, Iowa

Conservation News and Notes

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Cooperation in Illinois. The Illinois Audubon Society, though a state organization, has the great majority of its members living within 50 miles of Chicago. Consequently, it does not have the influence with the State Legislature that would be possible if members represented all parts of the state. During the last session of the State Legislature, the mourning dove bill had most of its support from members of the legislature representing the northern part of the state, where there was the greatest activity in letter writing for the bill. There was fine work for the bill by small groups in the region of the larger cities down state. This condition indicated the need for extending our influence to all parts of the state.

A number of years ago, Mr. Orpheus Schantz was engaged as a paid field worker to work through the state for the Society, but this was for a short time, and the Society has not recently had the funds to support so desirable a project.

The writer received a letter which bears on this subject, dated June 15, 1954, from Mr. Wallace D. Bowman, research assistant in the Cooperative Wildlife Laboratory at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. In his letter, Mr. Bowman asked for information concerning the activities of the Conservation Council and their "extent in terms of membership, numbers of towns or counties affected, etc." I quote the following paragraph from this letter:

"One of the projects currently being carried on by the Cooperative Wildlife Laboratory at Southern Illinois University is a study of all agencies and organizations that are in any way participating in conservation activities in Southern Illinois. This survey is intended as background material for planning a coordinated conservation project. The meaning of conservation activity here is understood to be a broad one, including enforcement of game laws, giving technical advice on soil and water problems, participation in any sort of public relations or educational program for conservation, sportsmen's activities, improving resource use, building the economy of the region, etc."

Though Mr. Bowman's letter was written to the Conservation Council, it could have been directed to the Illinois Audubon Society, appropriately, which is nominally a conservation organization. I say nominally because the Society has not been as active in conservation work in recent years as it could be, though it was founded originally for protection of birds.

The Chicago Ornithological Society can very well take care of the field trips for the bird watchers in the Chicago region, and it is not feasible for the Illinois Audubon Society to do much in this line. For people outside of the Chicago region, the Society cannot provide an extensive program, except for publication of material of interest to bird watchers in the *Audubon Bulletin.*

Mr. Bowman's letter contained a map showing a belt of counties across the state which are included in his survey. These are Madison, Bond,

Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, and Crawford Counties. The idea of promoting conservation activities is worth while, and the Illinois Audubon Society should cooperate as far as is feasible and appropriate. Such an effort could be a big step in the effort to make the Illinois Audubon Society more statewide in its activities.

Several years ago, an effort was made to canvass the state for information concerning local societies interested in birds or in nature in general. Mr. Harry Smith gave considerable time to this project. The results indicated that there are not many such groups, apparently, and they are usually small. Mr. Raymond Mostek has continued to work on this program, and his efforts should be supported. Mr. Smith recently left our state to live in California.

It is not easy to get information about downstate interests except in the larger cities. Mr. Mostek has suggested sending copies of the *Audubon Bulletin* to public libraries in order to stimulate interest and also establish contacts. This could be fruitful.



New Refuge in Florida. According to the June issue of *Nature Conservation News*, "Corkscrew Swamp, containing the last large forest of tidewater cypress in the United States, as well as a great rookery of American egrets and wood ibis, will be partly saved from destruction by lumbering through efforts of the Corkscrew Cypress Rookery Association and cooperating groups and individuals. The swamp is in a roadless area of Collier County in southern Florida."

The National Audubon Society will give protection and interpretative service until a permanent arrangement is established. Much credit for creating interest in the project must be given to Mr. Ernest Taylor, an amateur herpetologist, who gave many illustrated lectures on the swamp.

5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago 37



On the Stoning of Purple Martins

By Paul H. Lobik

Every Summer, beginning about the middle of July, one of nature's most impressive phenomena may be seen at Chicago's Lake Front — the flocking of Purple Martins prior to their southward migration. The largest flocks gather near Montrose Harbor, on the north side of Lincoln Park. Here, from late afternoon until sunset, thousands of Martins whirl through the sky, circling above the harbor and dropping into the elms momentarily, only to dash off again, blotting out the setting sun with their numbers.

The flock at Montrose Harbor probably reaches its peak at the end of August, when as many as 10,000 birds may be seen in a single group. After

the first week in September the flock begins to dwindle; by September 15, all but a few stragglers are gone. But during the flocking period, the sight is one never to be forgotten. At times these handsome swallows sit side by side on telephone wires, festooning the sky for blocks. At other times, a flock precipitates into one large tree, causing the branches to bend under the weight. When the group takes off, the air is filled with shrilling cries, and the bystander is almost deafened by the beating of wings.

Such a spectacular migration is bound to attract attention, and unfortunately, too often the wrong people come out as witnesses. For there are gravel walks and loose rocks along the edges of the harbor and the lake, and to some individuals, the temptation to stone the flocking Martins seems too great to resist. To keep these thoughtless few from their wanton destruction, it has been necessary to patrol the harbor area daily.

One of the Directors of the Society, Miss Florence Cummings, has patrolled the Montrose Harbor area every summer afternoon for many years in an effort to stop the slaughter. Aided by Mrs. Genevieve Benson and occasionally by Mr. Benson, she has walked miles each day along the beaches and around the Army Camp, speaking to the wild-eyed boys and youths with rocks in their hands. Often a quiet, clear explanation of the value of our songbirds is enough. Many times, Miss Cummings reports, the stoners stop to ask questions, and end by apologizing for their acts. Some, who originally think that Martins and Crows are the same, come back to ask where they can learn more about birds or the Audubon Society. Rarely, a defiant boy has to be quelled by the threat of arrest.

Mr. George Donoghue, Superintendent of the Chicago Park District, has cooperated by erecting metal signs at strategic places, pointing out that Purple Martins are beneficial birds protected by federal law and that anyone injuring them is subject to a fine of $500.00. The signs are helpful, and an increasing number of people appear to understand that the birds should not be molested. Nevertheless, Miss Cummings and Mrs. Benson stop from three to a dozen stoners almost every day. And many nights, returning to their car in the twilight, they pick up dead or crippled Martins beside the walks.

Here is an opportunity for bird-watchers to help the birds they love. The need is great, especially on warm summer week-ends when the park is crowded. Only a few hours a day need be spent in patrolling. The Martins appear in numbers about 4:00 p.m.; they are most in danger of stoning between 5:00 and 7:30, when they wheel closely overhead and settle briefly in the trees. At sunset, the birds fly off to their hidden roosting-place.

If you can patrol for a few hours any Saturday or Sunday during the summer, please contact Miss Florence Cummings, 335 Belden Ave., phone DIversey 8-6511. Or come yourself to the gate of the Army Camp at the east end of Montrose Harbor about 4:30 p.m., where in a short time Miss Cummings or Mrs. Benson will walk by and give you instructions. On rainy or blustery days, when there are few people in the park, only a few watchers are needed. On warm, sunny days, more are needed, for then the stoners are out in force. Even one day of watching will help — help to save a few of

these beautiful swallows so that they might come back next year to destroy more of Chicago's insect pests.

4835 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago 39

Dinosaur Monument Is Safe

By Paul H. Lobik

Hastening to Adjourn, the last Congress failed to act on a number of controversial bills which had been referred to committees for further study. And by these omissions, conservationists won some important victories in reverse. For one of the proposals which never came up for a vote was the Colorado River Basin Storage Project, which would have included the authority to build Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument.

It is evident that the letters and protests of nature lovers and conservation groups were in some measure successful in saving Echo Park. One version of the bill came up in the House of Representatives and was promptly pigeon-holed in committee. Another version came before the Senate, and this bill was strongly promoted by a number of Western senators, principally those from Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and Idaho. However, several senators from the east, and one from California (where the Sierra Club has been in the vanguard of the fight to preserve our National Parks), were equally strong in their opposition. In the end, the Senate decided against bringing the bill out of committee, especially after the House had declined to act.

This action represents a temporary victory at best, since the Western senators are certain to bring up the project again. So far, the President has shown an alarming inclination to go along with any proposal to whittle away our national resources. Conservation-minded citizens should be aware that this is no time to relax our vigilance in guarding the nation's forests, water supplies, and wildlife.

Another bill which failed by default was H. R. 4646, the Ellsworth Bill to permit exchange of lands needed for dam building projects for other lands in National Forests. The Stockmen's Bill also failed; this is the proposal which would have permitted large cattle raisers of Western states to sell or pass on grazing privileges on Federal lands from one generation to the next, with little control from the present supervisory bodies (the U.S. Forest Service), and at negligible cost to the stockmen. It is to be expected that these bills will also be revived in the next Congress.

If these events represent negative victories, then the failure of the bill to reform our Mining Laws represents a negative defeat. Since 1872, it has been possible for unscrupulous operators to claim mineral rights on National Forest lands, cut down the timber on the claim, ostensibly to work the "mine," and then, after the trees are gone, to abandon the mine as

unprofitable, sell the lumber at a good price, and move on to virgin territory. Senate Bill 783, which would have put an end to this practice, also died in committee. In the meantime, Interior Secretary Douglas McKay has authorized several large timber grants in Oregon and Washington on the basis of this antiquated law.

4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39

Audubon Society "Makes" Holiday Magazine

Donald Culross Peattie, the noted nature writer, has written a feature article on the National Audubon Society which has been published in the October, 1954 issue of *Holiday* magazine (pp. 46-51 et. seq.). Beautiful full-page illustrations, some in color, show laughing gulls, Florida rookeries, and a male American Egret in breeding plumage at the nest. The article summarizes the history of the Audubon Society and its work, and appeals for further support of the protection of birds and other wildlife.

Book Reviews

Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe, by Roger Tory Peterson, Guy Mountfort and P. A. D. Hollom. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2 Park St., Boston. $5.00.

This is another of the familiar, and to the bird lover indispensable field guides, if one wishes to study European birds. Mr. Peterson contributed the illustrations and accompanying legend pages, which to us who are familiar with his artistry and ability to emphasize the differential points so necessary in field identification, is sufficient guarantee of excellence. Collaborating are Guy Mountfort, Hon. Secretary of the British Ornithologists' Union, primarily responsible for the descriptive text, and P. A. D. Hollom, editor of the *Popular Handbook of British Birds*, who prepared the maps and distribution notes. James Fisher, vice chairman of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, acted as general editor, and the introduction was written by Julian Huxley.

There are 1107 illustrations, including flight and postural silhouettes and line drawings, and 367 maps showing summer and winter distribution. The descriptive text, in addition to the latest scientific classification, which incidentally includes the Jaegers and Skuas, gives the common names in Dutch, German, French and Swedish. There are 64 plates each of groups of related, similar birds. There is also a list of accidentals, a list of the British Ornithological Societies, and a complete index. Nothing seems to have been omitted.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

More Book Reviews

THE MACMILLAN WILD FLOWER BOOK: text by Clarence J. Hylander; illustrations by Edith Farrington Johnston. The Macmillan Company, New York. Printed by the Great Lakes Press Corporation, Rochester, N.Y. 480 pages. $15.00.

There are 232 lithographed plates, many of them illustrating two plants, some of them three or four, nearly 400 in all. There is a brief description of each. By some artistic magic white flowers are made to appear white, even against the white page; others have a green leaf background. The forms and details are as perfect as anything I have ever seen, as far as plants I am familiar with are concerned. The marsh marigold does not look familiar unopened without showing the stamens. Some flowers, for instance the dandelion and the tall coreopsis, look to me paler yellow than they appear in the mass as we see them in this region. The New England aster also grows in more solid clumps than is shown in the picture. Nevertheless, the total book is about the finest collection of mass reproduction in color that I have ever seen done in this country, and will be a joy to flower lovers everywhere. This is best appreciated when seen in broad daylight. Any one of the plates is worthy of individual framing.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

AUDUBON WATER BIRD GUIDE, by Richard H. Pough; color plates by Don Eckelberry; black and white by Earl L. Poole. Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., $3.50.

There are 485 color plates, the best I have seen short of life size, and they cover spring, fall and immature plumages, which fills a much-desired want. Hawks and gallinaceous birds are included, as are doves. The 138 black and white illustrations are of birds in characteristic flight position, a considerable help in the identification of birds who cannot be approached closely enough to get all the color details. In the case of the hawks, various color phases are shown.

The descriptive body of the book, which could have been written only by an expert with wide field experience, describes the characteristic field identification marks, habits, food, nest, voice and geographic range, all of which are invaluable data. All of this is compressed into a pocket size book of 352 pages in easily readable print, including an excellent index. The covers are used for flyway maps showing life zones and vegetation zones, thus helping to explain distribution of birds. Altogether, this is a most valuable addition to our pocket-size bird guides.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

CLARENCE; THE LIFE OF A SPARROW, by Mrs. Clare Kipps. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 210 Madison Avenue, New York City, N.Y., 1954. $2.50.

The 126 pages include a prologue and an epilogue by the author and a foreword by Julian Huxley which of itself is a sort of a review. There is also a quotation from "The Problem of Pain" by C. S. Lewis, presenting the point of view that man was appointed by God to have dominion over the beasts, and that therefore the tame animal is the only natural one.

The story is of a remarkable attachment between Mrs. Kipps and the sparrow which she rescued after ejection or fall from the nest, naked and with as yet unopened eyes. The sparrow, which later developed the black bib of the male, was fed on milk, egg, haliver oil, bread and later seeds, which is described as a vegetarian diet. He was devoted only to his mistress, paying scant attention to other birds, even to a little blue tit female who courted him for three seasons. He developed song to a high degree, some of which Mrs. Kipps, herself a musician, wrote to music; also a yellowish collar, saffron waistcoat and primrose pants. (The author attributes this to "color feeding" with yolk of egg.) The coloring, the song, and the lack of attraction to other birds may possibly be due to hybridization, which is not considered in the text.

The sparrow was also trained to do a few tricks, and for a while served as an entertainer before audiences during the dark hours of the blitz. (Mrs. Kipps was serving as a warden.)

He lived to be twelve years, seven weeks, and four days, dying apparently of "old age" much as humans do, having had a "stroke" toward the end, from which he partially recovered. No doubt, without loving care, and exposed to natural enemies, his life would have been much shorter, as is the fate of birds in the wild state. A series of fourteen photographs illustrate some of the sparrow's habits and tricks.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

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ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY will fill mail orders for almost any book in the field of ornithology, nature study or conservation. Books not now at hand can be obtained following receipt of order. The following volumes are in stock:

A Guide to Bird Finding, by Olin S. Pettingill. $6.00.

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THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wild life conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests and rodents.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	**$50.00**
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

THE AUDUBON BULLETIN



Number 92 *December, 1954*

Natural History Survey

THE
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
(ORGANIZED IN 1897)
For the Protection of Wild Birds

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ROOSEVELT ROAD and LAKE SHORE DRIVE
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS — Telephone WAbash 2-9410

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THE AUDUBON BULLETIN

Published Quarterly by the

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Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, Ill.

Number 92 *December, 1954*

Membership Participation Needed

By Frank McVey

The recent increase in activities of the Illinois Audubon Society has been a favorable sign. We believe interest on the part of members and friends is also improving. Not only do we have a full program of five Screen Tours this season, and the *Bulletin* four times per year, but also a considerable amount of interest in conservation affairs by our directors. This is reported from time to time, but perhaps some of our members do not realize that there are many problems and decisions that come to the attention of our directors. If we could have the help of our members throughout the year we believe that new ideas and new activities would be greatly appreciated.

It has been suggested that a general meeting for all would be helpful. Some of us remember the membership teas that were held a few years ago. The Directors are now considering similar meetings, including a social time with an interesting program in which the talents of our members could be used effectively. Do you feel we should hold such a meeting at the Museum before our "Screen Tours?" A chance to get better acquainted with each other would not only be enjoyable but might bring out some ideas that would be valuable to our Society.

There is a possibility that the members of our Society could be grouped into three sections: conservation, education and scientific. This procedure would give us a chance to specialize and to direct our efforts toward particular objectives. At the present time we need more specific goals toward which to work. There are several ready for expression but most of us are waiting for others to start.

Soon we are going to need clerical help and particularly a varityper. A workshop for officers and helpers is contemplated. This workshop would enable us to carry out our tasks more efficiently and with less cross-town telephone calls and delays.

We need your enthusiasm, your help and your ideas. May we hear from you soon? We would like to know whether you have time or talent to offer. A postcard or letter to the address below will be greatly appreciated. Let us know when and where you could attend a general meeting. Also let us know any help you can offer or any ideas for improvement.

5845 Kingsdale Ave., Chicago

We regret to report that Mr. Arthur C. Johnson, a long-time friend of the Illinois Audubon Society, died this fall. He audited the books of the Society for many years, without charge, and will be deeply missed.

Director Harold Lenz deserves a big vote of thanks for printing the new membership list of the Illinois Audubon Society. It was a difficult job well done — and he refused to accept a penny for it.

The Christmas Bird Census — 1954

By Paul H. Lobik

The Society Invites its members again to participate in the annual Audubon Census of birds in Illinois. For this year, the census period is from Saturday, December 25, through Sunday, January 2. Since the requirements for the Audubon Census have been tightened this year, it will be necessary for a member to join a group of birders in making his count. Your local bird club or nature society should be urged to sponsor a post-Christmas hike, if it is not already planning to do so.

In the northeastern Illinois area, the Chicago Ornithological Society will take its traditional census in the Morton Arboretum on Sunday, December 26, beginning at 9:00 a.m. To reach the Arboretum, follow highway #53 north from Lisle, Illinois for one mile, then turn right to the Administration Building, 100 feet inside the gate. This is an all-day hike: bring your lunch and dress warmly, as the watchers stay outdoors regardless of the weather. Guests are welcome.

Apparently the new rules, published on pp. 3-4 of the *Audubon Bulletin*, No. 90 (June, 1954), have given some members the impression that they will not be permitted to take part in the Census. This is not the case; it is only necessary to join a group of two or more experienced birders, and plan to cover a relatively wide area with a variety of habitats. The essential rules are reprinted here from the June *Bulletin*:

> ". . . The reporting group should consist of at least three experienced observers, covering an area approximately 15 miles in diameter. The exact size of the area is not as important as the variety of habitats covered — preferably marsh, open water, prairie, forest edge, and as many other types of landscape as may be available. The observations should be made for at least six hours, on a single day within the Census period. Duplicate or overlapping coverage of a single area cannot be permitted. Reports covering the highest counts over the same area taken on successive days. . . will not be allowed."

For the purposes of this Society, the 15-mile diameter rule will be waived; in heavily populated areas, private property restrictions make it virtually impossible to find an area of this size suitable for birding. Any large state, city or county park, or game preserve, should provide a suitable census area. Lincoln or Jackson parks in Chicago, Credit Island or Rock Island in the Tri-Cities area, Illinois Beach, White Pines, or New Salem State Parks, a section of the I. and M. Canal, a part of the Chicago lake front — all of these locales, and many more, are suitable as bird census areas. However, if two separate groups cover the same area on the same or different days, only the largest count will be allowed, with the lesser count being mentioned for comparison purposes only.

Census reports should be sent before January 15 to the *Bulletin* Editor, 4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39, Ill. Copies will be forwarded to the National Audubon Society. Please follow the standard A. O. U. order in making your report and observe the style used in the previous write-up (see the March, 1954 issue). The following information should be given: date, terrain covered, miles by foot and/or auto, wind, weather, time spent in the field, species seen, numbers of each, and names of participants.

Reports should be typed, double space, please, on one side of 8½ by 11 paper. Be sure that your group sends in its findings (someone on the hike should be appointed to this task before you start for home). The hike leader or the club secretary should perform this duty if a specific person is not chosen. We'll be looking for your reports next year — good weather, good birding, and a good Christmas to all of you!

Exhibition of Nature Photography

THE NATURE CAMERA CLUB of Chicago invites members and friends of the Society to participate in the Tenth Chicago International Exhibition of Nature Photography, to be held in the Chicago Natural History Museum from February 1 through 28, 1955.

There are two divisions in the contest — prints and slides. Pictures of any natural history subject are eligible: birds, mammals, insects, plants, flowers, shellfish, geological formations, clouds, etc. The Exhibition is conducted in accordance with the rules of the Photographic Society of America, which awards two medals to the makers of the color slides showing the best color harmony. Other medals, ribbons and certificates are awarded to makers of winning prints and slides in each of three divisions — Botany, Zoology and General Nature.



"Good Morning!"
By LAWRENCE D. HIETT, *APSA*
Toledo, Ohio

The photographs will be judged by a jury of five, including two members of the Museum staff, two nationally known photographers, and Mrs. May T. Watts, Naturalist of the Morton Arboretum. Accepted prints will be displayed in the main hall of the Museum all through February. Accepted slides will be projected in the James Simpson Theater (where the Audubon Screen Tours are held) on two Sunday afternoons, February 13 and 20, at 3:00 p.m. Deadline for entries is January 15, 1955; up to four prints and/or four color slides may be entered. To obtain entry blanks, write to Paul H. Lobik, 4835 Wabansia Ave., Chicago 39, Ill.

Green-tailed Towhee in Illinois

By Ralph Eiseman *and* Nelda McQuate

On June 1, 1954 we observed a Green-tailed Towhee, *Chlorura chlorura*, near the beach house at Montrose-Wilson Beach, Lincoln Park, Chicago, Illinois. It was first seen at about 8:45 a.m. and was kept under observation by us for about 45 minutes. The bird was not shy, and good views were obtained of it at close range through seven and eight- power binoculars. Most of the time the bird was foraging on the ground under shrubbery. Then it flew to perch on a nearby snow fence, where it sang several times. On visits to this area on subsequent days by various bird students, the bird was not found.

The following field notes were taken: about the size of a Red-eyed Towhee; crown, rufous; nape, gray; back, gray; wings, green, yellow at bend; no wing bars; tail, dark, sometimes appearing greenish; lores, appearing white when the bird was facing us; auricular patch, gray; throat, white with black whisker mark; breast, grayish; upper part of belly, white and lower part, gray; longitudinal light gray streaks on belly; under-tail coverts, gray; legs, light-colored.

The bird was identified in the field with the aid of Richard H. Pough's *Audubon Bird Guide* and Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*, and comparison of notes with specimens in the Chicago Natural History Museum confirmed our identification. The only important discrepancy was the gray streaking on the belly, which the specimens in the museum lacked.

Inquiries at the Lincoln Park Zoo and the Brookfield Zoo disclosed that they had not lost a bird of this species. As far as we can determine, this is the second Illinois and the first Chicago record for this species. The first Illinois record was an individual seen north of Murphysboro, Jackson Co., Illinois, on April 17, 1953 (1953, No. 4, *Audubon Field Notes*, 7:276).

Ralph M. Eiseman, 7928 S. Colfax, Chicago 17, Illinois, and Nelda J. McQuate, Univ. of Ill., Chicago Undergraduate Div., Chicago 11

Strangers Within Our Gates

By Mrs. Amy G. Baldwin

***(Ed. Note:** The following article was received rather late for a previous issue of the* Bulletin, *and was further delayed in transcription. It is printed now in the hope that it will indicate a number of birds to watch for in the Chicago area during the coming season.)*

The Year 1953 brought many surprises for the bird-watchers of the Chicago area. Some of these appear once or more a year but are never common: the Kittiwake, Little Gull, Purple Sandpiper, and the Burrowing Owl (seen here only twice before). One of the owls, unfortunately, was shot by a boy; we hope the other two returned west safely.

In July, the Cattle Heron was seen at Saganashkee Slough — an unusual record of a foreign species. Good spring rarities were: Purple Gallinule, Avocet, one or more Eared Grebes, a Long-billed Curlew, six Hudsonian Godwits, and a Hawk Owl (the latter seen by Mrs. Theron Wasson at the Morton Arboretum). Another record was the Glossy Ibis seen at 135th and Doty Aves.

Good observations were also made in the fall. At Michigan City pier, two Western Grebes were found, as well as the American, Surf, and White-winged Scoters; two Snowy Owls; the Hooded, American, and Red-breasted Mergansers; Old-Squaw, Scaup, Ruddy, Buffle-head, Red-head, and Canvas-back Ducks. Pintails were seen later, and a Red Phalarope stayed for several weeks.

Northern Shrikes were located in a number of places; two at Beverly Shores, Indiana, one at Navy Pier, one at Waukegan, and one in the outskirts of the Arboretum. Later on, the Morton Arboretum gave us a real thrill with the finding of the Townsend's Solitaire. It has been many years since that bird has been seen in the Chicago area. We found it during the Christmas Census.

Mt. Hope Cemetery has been interesting, too. There I saw two Long-eared Owls and a Hairy Woodpecker in midwinter, and also heard Blue Birds. Six had been seen there, along with several Robins, a day or two before by Mr. Blair Coursen.

On January 7, 1954, at a small dump yard near Beverly Shores, Indiana, Dr. Reuter-Skiold and I were sitting in her car with just one or two birds in sight. We tried the Audubon Bird Call, and from the trees and swamp came birds and then more birds. I began counting White-crowned Sparrows, both immatures and adults. I counted 20 to 25, as well as Juncoes and Black-capped Chickadees. Soon we heard a Carolina Wren calling, and another one answer from farther away. Presently a Red-shouldered Hawk became interested in our "squeaker." Later, Tree and Song Sparrows came along. We were surprised beyond measure that such a flock of birds should come to see what all the "calling" was about.

Waukegan produced an Arctic three-toed Woodpecker this winter. Here we also turned up a red-phased Screech Owl; I failed to find a gray one this season. On January 11, when Helen Lane and I were driving northwest of the Arboretum, we saw a flock of 100 (estimated) Mourning Doves feeding in a corn field. It was the first time we had ever seen a flock of this size in midwinter.

The Arboretum has held some winter visitors that we have come to expect, such as the Great Horned Owl, the Long-eared and Screech Owls, over 200 Pine Siskins, and a Winter Wren. Regular winter birds here included Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Song Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Juncoes, and Blue Jays. Altogether, it has been a good year, and we hope that the next will be even a better one.

6335 S. Kimbark Ave., Chicago 37

Conservation News and Notes

By Raymond Mostek

The Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior has authorized state game administrators in Missouri and Illinois to increase the season on mourning doves from 30 to 35 consecutive full days . . . Botulism has been a major cause of waterfowl losses for over 50 years. It has been known that over 300,000 ducks have died in a single season in one location. No one seems to know how many ducks have died of this disease. It has been recommended that the Fish and Wildlife Service place the finding of a solution to botulism poisoning at the top of their research program.

One of the amendments to the recently revised Atomic Energy Act provided for the protection of our National Parks, monuments and wildlife refuges. No leases or permits will be granted for mineral exploration in such areas except in cases of national emergency. Bills will be introduced into the new session of Congress to earmark not less than 40 per cent of receipts from the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act for the acquisition of refuge areas.

The Colorado Game and Fish Commission has set aside an area on top of the continental divide as a grizzly bear refuge. Such action to preserve this fine animal from extinction deserves high praise. In recent action, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay raised admission rates to several National Parks. This would be useful only if the increased funds thus collected were turned back to the National Park Service. At present all funds collected at our parks go to Congress. . . The defeat of the Baker bill in Congress was a serious blow to the U.S. Forest Service. It now has almost no funds for adequate wildlife protection and badly needed expansion of recreational facilities.

The defeat of the proposed Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument was not the only victory of conservationists over the dam builders. The proposal of the Army Engineers to build dams on the Clearwater river in the Idaho Wilderness area and the Arkansas river in Colorado were also defeated in the House. Five private power companies have also expressed interest in building these dams on the Clearwater River. All too often, wildlife values are ignored in engineering surveys. Some day this country will have to resolve the controversy over dams versus wildlife values on all of our rivers.

Another conservation problem which Congress ignored this year was that of water pollution. The Taft-Barkley Act of 1948 provides for federal government assistance to states thru research, technical counsel and loans for construction of sewage treatment facilities. It is estimated that our nation needs 6,000 new or improved sewage treatment plants. The growing menace to public health and to wildlife was mainly ignored by Congress.

The 1954-55 Duck Stamp will feature two ring-necked ducks "slanting-in" for a landing in a black and white watercolor feature. Sales of hunting and fishing licenses have reached new highs; there are more than 17,652,000 holders of fishing permits and over 14,832,000 hunters registered in this country.

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology has created a fund for the purpose of saving the Prairie Chicken from extinction in that state. The W.S.O. has resolved to purchase a preserve of forty acres or more for nesting cover. It also hopes to persuade the Wisconsin Conservation Commission to purchase additional land, by this demonstration of public interest. The W.S.O. is raising money by contributions. Directors of the I.A.S. voted this month to donate funds for adding an acre to the Prairie Chicken Preserve. Members and friends of the Illinois Society who wish to add their donation should write to the Prairie Chicken Survival Fund, % Carl P. Frister, 2956-A N. 38th St., Milwaukee 10, Wisconsin. The land in this area costs $30.00 an acre. The National Committee on the Prairie Chicken estimates that only 400,000 of these birds are alive today. Their decline in the past three decades is especially alarming. Wisconsin is one of five states which has a fair representation of these birds. Illinois has probably less than 10,000. The species disappeared from Ohio, Kentucky and Arkansas over 40 years ago.

3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18, Ill.

I. A. S. Notes

By the EDITOR

THESE LITTLE PARAGRAPHS are just short, more or less timely items meant to "fill you in" about the news of our Society. Some will be just routine announcements — such as, the time for annual dues payments is almost here; please send in your membership as soon as you receive your bill, and thus save us the time and expense of re-billing. But other announcements will be more interesting to read, such as this one:

The recent meeting of the Board of Directors laid the ground-work for the coming Annual Meeting of the Illinois Audubon Society, to be held in the middle of next spring. A spot nearer the center of the state is favored, with Decatur being suggested. The meeting would be combined with a field trip. The committee on arrangements consists so far of Directors Elton Fawks, Frank McVey, and Bertha Huxford.

Want a nature decal for your car window? "Friends of the Wilderness" makes a nice one about keeping your forests clean and green, and always being careful about woods fires. Director Ray Mostek says he will sell these at the Society's desk in the Museum before and after the Audubon Screen Tours — only 5c each. They cost 10c from the Wilderness group. Of course, you can always get one free by joining "Friends of the Wilderness" — and that's worth while, too.

We hear that the *National Geographic* magazine for November will contain a full-length article on the National Audubon Society by President John H. Baker. The story will be illustrated by many pages of beautiful bird pictures. This magazine isn't sold on news stands, but it does appear in some book stores — or maybe you can persuade some friend who is a member of the Geographic Society to loan you his copy.

By the time you read this, the Audubon Screen Tour program will be

in full swing. We hope that all of you will have enjoyed Roger Tory Peterson's "Wild America," to be presented on November 28. Other important dates to remember are January 9, 1955, when Alfred G. Etter will tell "A Missouri Story," and February 27, when that wonderful bird imitator, Bert Harwell, brings us the next in his series — this time, "Canada North." As usual, the lectures will be in James Simpson theater, the Chicago Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, on Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Admission is always free.

Thanks to the *Bureau Valley Bird Club* of Princeton, Ill. for sending us a copy of their interesting Newsletter. An affiliate of the I. A. S., the Bureau Club is participating in bird population counts for the Patuxent Research Refuge, and has an active Audubon Junior group program. They reported exceptionally good counts of migrants during our warm autumn weather, and are making plans for their usual thorough Christmas Census.

Our Honorary Vice-President, Mrs. Margaret M. Nice, continues her record as most prolific author in our Society. Her scholarly monograph, "Problems of Incubation Periods in North American Birds," was printed in *The Condor*, Vol. 56, No. 4, July-August, 1954, pp. 173-197. In the same magazine, her article on "The Earliest Mention of Territory" appeared in Vol. 55, No. 6, Nov.-Dec., 1953, pp. 316-317. Meanwhile her daughter, Miss Constance Nice, had her article on "Bird Babes of Delta Marsh" published in *Nature Magazine*, June-July, 1954, Vol. 47, No. 6. This was illustrated with line drawings by Mrs. Nice.

We greet the following new members who have joined our ranks in the period from May through August, 1954:

Mrs. Fern H. Anderson, Batavia
Norman Barka, Chicago
Mrs. Dorothy Ericson, Chicago
William H. Esselmont, Chicago
Cyral Gordon, Chicago
Miss Ruth Kilbourn, Chicago
Robert P. Kirby, Decatur
Mrs. K. K. Lilien, Barrington
T. Nelson Metcalf, Chicago
Mrs. Irene Mostek, Chicago
Prof. R. Maurice Myers, Macomb
Mrs. William H. Short, Western Springs
Mrs. Paul G. Vetter, Western Springs

Madeline Dorosheff of the Springfield Nature League, one of the leaders two years ago in the fight to take the Mourning Dove off the hunting list in Illinois, is the author of an article in the November, 1954 issue of *Nature Magazine*, pp. 481-483. In her revealing and disturbing story, she tells the events behind the defeat of the Mourning Dove bill. It gives us something to think about as we prepare for a new battle in the coming session of the Illinois Legislature.



The Conservation News recently described a new "bug" with whom many of us are unfortunately familiar. "Many times larger than the tiny virus bug is that dangerous giant, the litterbug. It attacks people by throwing garbage and trash on their lawns, public roads, parks, and beaches. It is a considerable nuisance. Steps are being taken by various groups to reduce the numbers of these bugs."

Chicago Area Bird Walks

VISITORS AND GUESTS who come to the Museum for the Audubon Screen Tours often stop at our literature desk after the movie and ask, "Can we join you on your bird walks?" And we always must give the same reply: "The Illinois Audubon Society sponsors no winter bird walks. But if you want to go birding in the Chicago area, we advise you to call the Chicago Ornithological Society."

Since some of our members in the northern Illinois area might be unable to attend the Museum lectures and thus hear first-hand of the bird walk schedule, we are printing below the full program of C. O. S. hikes for the coming year.

Date	Place and Time	Features
Dec. 12	Morton Arboretum, near Lisle, Ill. Meet 9:00 a.m., Administration Building	Owls, crossbills
Dec. 26	Same as above	Christmas census
Jan. 16	Same as above	Finches, siskins
Feb. 13	Lake Front, Chicago area, 9:00 a.m. — one group at pier off Tower Rd., Winnetka; others at Columbia Statue, Jackson Park. Meet at noon at Randolph St.	Gulls, ducks, scoters
Mar. 13	Orland Park and Saganashkee Slough. Meet 9:00 a.m., Orland school house	Water birds
Apr. 3	Enos, Indiana — Willow Slough and Jasper-Pulaski Preserve. Meet at dawn, 7½ mi. south of Kankakee bridge, U. S. Rt. 41	Prairie chickens, Sandhill cranes, Longspurs, ducks
May 8	Eggers Woods and Wolf Lake, 9:00 a.m., Eggers Woods field house	Sandpipers, Warblers
May ??	Waukegan area; Illinois Beach State Park. Write or call C. O. S. for details	Warbler Day
June 5	Indiana Dunes State Park. Meet 9:00 a.m. Tremont Station of South Shore R.R.	Warblers, Shore birds
June 19	Saganashkee Slough to Parker Road. Meet 9:00 a.m., dam on Willow Springs Road, north of Route 83	Chats, orioles, vireos, Western meadowlark

More details about meeting times and places may be obtained from the C. O. S. Field Chairman, Mr. Albert Campbell, 2028 S. Third Ave., Maywood. The group sends a monthly newsletter to members giving final data on trips and the schedule for the regular meeting at the Central Y.M.C.A. in downtown Chicago. Copies of this program will be sent to prospective members of the Chicago Ornithological Society on request by the secretary-treasurer, Mr. Holly Reed Bennett, 134 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Illinois, phone FRanklin 2-7500.

Illinois Conservation Council Formed

By Raymond Mostek

Under the sponsorship of the Illinois Audubon Society, representatives of a number of Illinois outdoor life groups held a pilot meeting in Springfield on November 13, 1954, to plan a course of action. So much enthusiasm was generated at the meeting that the members agreed to call a state-wide conference on conservation in March, 1955, and to organize as a new society, to be called the "Illinois Conservation Council."

The original purpose of the meeting, as stated by the writer in issuing the invitation, was to provide for a statewide conference of all interested groups concerned with the conservation of Illinois natural resources and the preservation of its wildlife. Representatives of more than a dozen organizations attended to discuss a common program all should follow.

The Directors of this Society have long felt that there is a growing need for cooperation and understanding among the nature study and outdoor groups in our state. The coming conference will be educational in nature — to determine which conservation problems should be studied and acted upon. No resolutions will be introduced and fought over; there should be no likelihood of dissension among groups with conflicting minor interests.

Some of the reasons for holding this conference are:

1. To gain a greater understanding of some of the conservation problems of our state;
2. To provide for an exchange of ideas and information among nature groups with common interests;
3. To learn of outstanding conservation projects undertaken by various groups and how these projects were successfully completed;
4. To learn more directly how our state government is handling certain aspects of our conservation problems.

Those participating in the pilot meeting were:

Mr. & Mrs. John Bayless	Chicago Ornithological Society	Chicago
Mr. Donald Bender	Volunteer Forest Patrol	Chicago
Mr. Richard Burk	Volunteer Forest Patrol	Chicago
Mrs. E. Byerrum	Wildflower Preservation Society	Warrenville
Mr. J. W. Galbreath	Cahokia Nature League	East St. Louis
Mr. George Hockenyos	Izaak Walton League	Springfield
Mrs. K. G. Knudson	Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation	Springfield
Mrs. J. Liefsen	Wildflower Preservation Society	Wheaton
Mr. Raymond Mostek	Illinois Audubon Society	Chicago
Mrs. C. F. Russell	Decatur Audubon Society	Decatur
Mrs. Hilda Stein	Illinois Nature Conservancy	Carbondale
Mr. Lucas Wrisehnik	Cahokia Nature League	Granite City
Mrs. L. F. Yntema	Chicago Conservation Council	Waukegan

The above group constitutes the "steering committee." Temporary officers were chosen, as well as the name for the assembly. Invitations to attend the Conservation Conference in March will be sent to over one thousand bird clubs, garden clubs, hunting and fishing clubs, and nature study groups. More information about this meeting will appear in the March issue of the *Bulletin*. Members who wish to help in this work are invited to write to the author.

3345 N. Harding Avenue, Chicago 18

Audubon Gifts for Christmas

THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING season is upon us again, and members of the Illinois Audubon Society should remember that some of the most appropriate gifts they can buy for their families or friends are available from the Society itself. See the back inside cover for a list of the Field Guides and nature study books that are to be had at standard prices from Raymond Mostek, 3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18.

Our "best buy" in enjoyment is the effective little bird-caller, which we sell for $1.25 (less than the downtown Chicago stores). And for those who want to make it a big gift this year, our binoculars are an exceptional value. These items should be ordered from John Helmer, 847 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Remember that your purchases help to support the work of your Society. If you prefer not to order by mail, most of these items are on sale at the book desk in the James Simpson theater of the Museum before and after our "Audubon Screen Tours."

Bird Records from Tri-Cities — III

By PETER C. PETERSEN, JR.

WHILE THE SPRING and summer at Tri-Cities have brought only a few rarities, they have provided some unusual nesting records. Here are the outstanding ones:

Hooded Merganser: Female and three young in Dead Slough, near mouth of Rock river, Rock Island county. The young were about three-fourths grown, capable of flight. Seen from canoe, distance about 30 feet, 8X binoculars. July 24.

Bank Swallows: nesting colony of 500 plus near Fulton, Whiteside county. The banks are soft and easy to dig; holes go back four to six feet. There are also colonies of 100 to 200 swallows at Cordova Quarry, Savanna, and Rock Island, in Carroll and Rock Island counties.

Dowitcher: one seen at Spring Lake, Carroll county, August 4.

Eastern Kingbird: nest found near highway at Spring Lake, August 4. Contained three young, one or two days old. The nest was very noticeable, about six feet high in a small tree less than 20 feet from the highway.

Bell's Vireo: nest found at Cordova Quarry, July 24, by Doug Baily and myself. It contained three eggs. On July 28 the young appeared to be one or two days old; on August 4, they had feathers half out of the quill. The nest was three feet high in a box elder.

620 E. Thirtieth St., Davenport, Ia.

Conservation Council Newsletter

By Dr. R. M. Strong

Illinois Beach State Park. Preliminary construction of a hard-surfaced road into Illinois Beach State Park was begun during the past summer, and completion is expected this coming spring. The road connects State Highway 173 with the parking area, and will run a little west of the beach from Zion. This will be a great improvement over the present entrance road, and its location should help in the development of recreation to the north of the park where it is supposed to be. There should be less danger of people overflowing into the educational and sanctuary portions of the park to the south. It is understood that Zion officials oppose extension of the park northward to Camp Logan, but there is much reason to expect acquirement of more land to the west.

Elgin Botanical Garden. The Illinois legislature in its last session, in response to pressure for more and better roads, set up a toll road commission with authority subject only to the governor, and it has been planning toll roads without proper regard to other public interests. One such road has been planned which would be 300 feet wide and go through the beautiful Elgin Botanical Gardens, also known as Trout Park. Surveyors even cut a swath eight feet wide for surveying without asking permission. The park has many interesting wild flowers and is a fine place for bird-watchers. There is an unusual area on a slope where water becomes impregnated with minerals and petrifies plants with which it comes in contact. The Elgin Conservation Council has asked for help in its fight against the plan, and they ask that letters be sent to Governor Stratton protesting against this unwarranted invasion of the park. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County has also had trouble with the Toll Road Commission.

Dinosaur National Monument. Although the 83rd Congress did not pass the Colorado River Development bill, it is understood that its proponents will try again this winter. This means that we can expect again to have a fight on our hands to prevent the flooding of Dinosaur National Monument by a dam at Echo Park. It was pointed out by Raymond Moley in *Newsweek* for May 10 that the project is unsound economically, and it is a question whether conservationists should not have attacked the whole bill instead of just the feature involving Dinosaur National Monument. The cost of the development is several times the actual value of the land that would be irrigated. However, this is really a power scheme, and the general public is asked to pay for a project which would benefit a relatively small number of people. The Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Engineers are believed to be seeking to get an opening wedge for invasion of other National Parks, i.e., to establish a precedent that could be used for other dam projects in the National Park System.

Hunting on Wildlife Refuges. Hunting on portions of over 30 National Wildlife Refuges has been permitted recently. This is justified by the Fish and Wildlife Service as "part of a plan for better wildlife management of waterfowl populations." It is also justified as a recognition that hunters by purchasing duck stamps have contributed to the purchase of wildlife areas and so have hunting rights in certain areas. It should be remembered that the present director of the Fish and Wildlife Service was politically appointed, and he may be expected to yield to hunting pressures. Hunting in any portion of a wildlife refuge tends to make adjacent portions less attractive to waterfowl. Furthermore, yielding a little to pressures for hunting on a wildlife refuge makes it more difficult to resist pressures to open larger portions, and the area is no longer a real refuge.

5716 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago 37

Book Reviews

Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe, by Roger Tory Peterson, Guy Mountfort and P. A. D. Hollom. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2 Park St., Boston. $5.00.

This is another of the familiar, and to the bird lover indispensable field guides, if one wishes to study European birds. Mr. Peterson contributed the illustrations and accompanying legend pages, which to us who are familiar with his artistry and ability to emphasize the differential points so necessary in field identification, is sufficient guarantee of excellence. Collaborating are Guy Mountfort, Hon. Secretary of the British Ornithologists' Union, primarily responsible for the descriptive text, and P. A. D. Hollom, editor of the *Popular Handbook of British Birds,* who prepared the maps and distribution notes. James Fisher, vice chairman of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, acted as general editor, and the introduction was written by Julian Huxley.

There are 1107 illustrations, including flight and postural silhouettes and line drawings, and 367 maps showing summer and winter distribution. The descriptive text, in addition to the latest scientific classification, which incidentally includes the Jaegers and Skuas, gives the common names in Dutch, German, French and Swedish. There are 64 plates each of groups of related, similar birds. There is also a list of accidentals, a list of the British Ornithological Societies, and a complete index. Nothing seems to have been omitted.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

The Macmillan Wild Flower Book: text by Clarence J. Hylander; illustrations by Edith Farrington Johnston. The Macmillan Company, New York. Printed by the Great Lakes Press Corporation, Rochester, N.Y. 480 pages. $15.00.

There are 232 lithographed plates, many of them illustrating two plants, some of them three or four, nearly 400 in all. There is a brief description of each. By some artistic magic white flowers are made to appear white, even against the white page; others have a green leaf background. The forms and details are as perfect as anything I have ever seen, as far as

plants I am familiar with are concerned. The marsh marigold does not look familiar unopened without showing the stamens. Some flowers, for instance the dandelion and the tall coreopsis, look to me paler yellow than they appear in the mass as we see them in this region. The New England aster also grows in more solid clumps than is shown in the picture. Nevertheless, the total book is about the finest collection of mass reproduction in color that I have ever seen done in this country, and will be a joy to flower lovers everywhere. This is best appreciated when seen in broad daylight. Any one of the plates is worthy of individual framing.



AUDUBON WATER BIRD GUIDE, by Richard H. Pough; color plates by Don Eckelberry; black and white by Earl L. Poole. Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., $3.50.

There are 485 color plates, the best I have seen short of life size, and they cover spring, fall and immature plumages, which fills a much-desired want. Hawks and gallinaceous birds are included, as are doves. The 138 black and white illustrations are of birds in characteristic flight position, a considerable help in the identification of birds which cannot be approached closely enough to get all the color details. In the case of the hawks, various color phases are shown.

The descriptive body of the book, which could have been written only by an expert with wide field experience, describes the characteristic field identification marks, habits, food, nest, voice and geographic range, all of which are invaluable data. All of this is compressed into a pocket size book of 352 pages in easily readable print, including an excellent index. The covers are used for flyway maps showing life zones and vegetation zones, thus helping to explain distribution of birds. Altogether, this is a most valuable addition to our pocket size bird guides.



CLARENCE; THE LIFE OF A SPARROW, by Mrs. Clare Kipps. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 210 Madison Avenue, New York City, N.Y., 1954. $2.50.

The 126 pages include a prologue and an epilogue by the author and a foreword by Julian Huxley which of itself is a sort of a review. There is also a quotation from "The Problem of Pain" by C. S. Lewis, presenting the point of view that man was appointed by God to have dominion over the beasts, and that therefore the tame animal is the only natural one.

The story is of a remarkable attachment between Mrs. Kipps and the sparrow which she rescued after ejection or fall from the nest, naked and with as yet unopened eyes. The sparrow, which later developed the black bib of the male, was fed on milk, egg, haliver oil, bread and later seeds, which is described as a vegetarian diet. He was devoted only to his mistress, paying scant attention to other birds, even to a little blue tit female who courted him for three seasons. He developed song to a high degree, some of which Mrs. Kipps, herself a musician, wrote to music; also a yellowish collar, saffron waistcoat and primrose pants. (The author attributes this to "color feeding" with yolk of egg.) The coloring, the song, and the lack of attraction to other birds may possibly be due to hybridization, which is not considered in the text.

Dr. Alfred Lewy, 25 E. Washington Blvd., Chicago

JOHN BURROUGHS' AMERICA, by Farida Wiley; Devin-Adair Co., New York. 304 pages, $4.50. Illustrations by Francis Lee Jacques.

"The most precious things in life are near at hand, without money and without price. I am bound to praise the simple life, because I have lived it and found it good." In these two lines are found the basic philosophy of John Burroughs, the Hudson River naturalist who was probably the most famous nature writer of his time. He died in 1921, after 85 years of fruitful living, most of which were spent in the Catskill region of New York.

Miss Wiley, who is on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History in New York (and who leads morning bird walks in Central Park) is responsible for bringing forth in a single volume some of the finest writings of the Sage of Slabsides.

In this volume, the reader will find Burroughs' comments on all facets of nature: rocks, insects, bird nests, bird songs, soil, flowering plants, mammals, and the seasons. Nothing escapes his penetrating eye. Burroughs' style of writing is so delightful that it is difficult to put the book down. And of course, for those who admire the line drawings of Francis Lee Jacques, one will find them here in abundance.

Raymond Mostek, 3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18



ERNEST THOMPSON SETON'S AMERICA, by Farida Wiley; Devin-Adair Publishing Co., 23 East 26th St., New York 10; 413 pages; $5.00.

It was Farida Wiley's intention and hope that this book would serve to keep alive the memory of a great writer-naturalist by making available to a new generation selections from some of his more than forty books — many of which are now out of print. In this purpose, she has succeeded.

Ernest Thompson Seton could truly be called a "citizen of the world." Born in England, he spent his early boyhood in Canada. Between 1890 and 1896, Seton studied art in Paris. Later he moved to New Jersey. He died in New Mexico on October 23, 1946, after 86 years of wonderful living. He overcame ill-health and poverty. As a youth he suffered from lung trouble and crossed eyes, and was stricken with arthritis in his 29th year. Yet he lived to become famous in many fields, as artist, author, scientist, teller of tales, authority on Indian life, naturalist and architect. His contributions are innumerable: Kipling declared that Seton's writings inspired him to write his Jungle Tales; Seton founded the Woodcraft Indians in 1902, and eight years later helped to found the Boy Scouts of America. It was Seton who first used the system of field identification popularized by Roger Tory Peterson.

One of the warmest stories found in this appealing volume is the tale of "Mother Teal and the Overland Route." Raising her brood on the edge of a small pond, Mother Teal disconsolately sees the sun shrink the size of the pond. Another pond was a half-mile away. Mother Teal's battle to save her "ten little balls of mottled down" from certain death at the claws of a marsh hawk, a fox, and a great tall man will win your sympathy and high regard. Many of Seton's drawings enhance this admirable volume, which well deserves a place in your home library.

Raymond Mostek, 3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago

Illinois Audubon Society Committees

Members wishing to help the Society in its work should contact the appropriate chairman of the committee which he is best qualified to aid.

Finance Committee: Franklin McVey, Chairman
5845 Kingsdale Ave., Chicago 30

Conservation Committee: Raymond Mostek, Chairman
3345 N. Harding Ave., Chicago 18

Education Committee: Mrs. Walter S. Huxford, Chairman
3027 Thayer St., Evanston

Editorial Committee: Mrs. Walter S. Huxford, Chairman

Membership Committee: Mr. John Bayless, Chairman
8925 Indian Boundary Rd., Gary, Ind.

Publicity Committee: Mrs. Anne Bayless, Chairman

Affiliated Societies

Bureau Valley Bird Club, % Carl H. Kramer, Treasurer
30 Thompson St., Princeton, Illinois

Cahokia Nature League, % J. W. Galbreath, Exec. Secretary
9157 Richfield Rd., East St. Louis, Illinois

Evanston Bird Club, % Miss Mary H. Paul, Secretary
1118 Maple Ave., Evanston, Illinois

Forest Trails Hiking Club, % Miss Josephine Halas, Treas.
215 E. Erie St., Chicago 11, Illinois

Freeport Audubon Society, % Mrs. W. C. Stewart, Secretary
1004 W. Douglas St., Freeport, Illinois

Garden Club of Lake Forest
Box 615, Lake Forest, Illinois

Benjamin T. Gault Bird Club, % Mrs. L. E. Cisne
762 Hill Ave., Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Girl Scouts of America, Camp Department
37 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago 3, Illinois

Chicago Park District, % Miss Florence Kiefer
425 E. 14th Blvd., Chicago 5, Illinois

Little Garden Club of Evanston, % Mrs. C. S. Speicher, Pres.
1302 Hinman Ave., Evanston, Illinois

Nature Club of Hinsdale
128 N. Garfield Ave., Hinsdale, Illinois

Wheaton Audubon Society, % Mrs. Roy J. Lile, Secretary
408 Pennsylvania Ave., Glen Ellyn, Illinois

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Books for Nature Study

FIELD GUIDES NATURE LITERATURE

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY will fill mail orders for almost any book in the field of ornithology, nature study or conservation. Books not now at hand can be obtained following receipt of order. The following volumes are in stock:

A Guide to Bird Finding, by Olin S. Pettingill. $6.00.

Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger T. Peterson. $3.75.

A Guide to Bird Watching, by Joseph J. Hickey. $4.00.

Exploring Our National Parks, Devereux Butcher. $2.50.

Birds at Home, by Marguerite Henry. $2.00.

Traveling with the Birds, by Rudyerd Boulton. $2.00.

Golden Nature Guide Books. A series of nature guides, pocket size, for children and beginners. We have the following volumes: Birds; Wild Flowers; Insects; Stars. $1.00 each.

THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,

organized for the protection of wild birdlife, invites the attention of all interested in such work to the unusual opportunities the present time offers to advance the cause of wildlife conservation. This work is receiving increasing support from the general public because of the growing appreciation of the important part birds play in protecting grain and other food products from the attacks of insectivorous pests and rodents.

The Illinois Audubon Society is in perfect accord with every movement concerned with the preservation of plant life, animal life and all of our other natural resources. Every protected bit of landscape, every bit of forest and wayside tangle set apart for preservation, is speedily utilized by the birds for purposes of their own, and thus conservation of forest and prairie, lake and watercourses in their natural setting means conservation of birdlife. Hence the Society exerts every effort to disseminate the facts about the economic importance of our birdlife, and strives to arouse interest in the creation of wildlife refuges.

The Society maintains an office at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5, where literature and information may be obtained, and where public lectures are held. Your support as a member is earnestly solicited. Membership fees are as follows:

ACTIVE MEMBERS	$2.00 annually
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS	$5.00 annually
SUSTAINING MEMBERS	**$50.00**
LIFE MEMBERS	$100.00

Contributions Invited

Articles, essays and stories dealing with bird life, nature study or conservation problems are always welcome, and will be printed within the limits of the space available. Manuscripts should be typed double space on one side of letter-size paper. Members and friends of the Society are requested to send their communications to the Editor.

Press of Physicians' Record Co., Chicago 5

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